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CORTEZ;

OR, THE

CONQUEST OF MEXICO:

AS RELATED BY

A FATHER TO HIS CHILDREN,

AND DESIGNED FOR

THE INSTRUCTION OF YOUTH.

IN TWO VOLUMES.—VOL. I.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN OF

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(AUTHOR OF THE NEW ROBINSON CRUSOE)

BY

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INSTRUCTIVE RAMBLES IN LONDON AND ITS ENVIRONS, THE ABRIDGMENT OF PLUTARCH'S LIVES, ETC. ETC.

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INTRODUCTION.

FOR ſome days after the relation of Columbus's Voyages, the young people waited in anxious expectation for their father to give them the promiſed narrative of Cortez; but however willing to gratify them, he reſolved to exerciſe their patience early in trifles, in order to accuſtom them to ſuſtain the more material diſappointments they muſt neceſſarily meet with in their journey through life. Habituated to obedience, no one preſumed to appear diſſatisfied, though all felt the utmoſt curioſity to hear a continuation of Voyages which had ſo greatly intereſted them. One afternoon that Frederic and Charlotte were ſeated after their leſſons in the garden, the

firſt-named addreſſing his ſiſter, ſaid: "Can you gueſs what I wiſh for this evening?"

Charlotte. Perhaps the ſame thing that I deſire myſelf, that our father would relate to us the Hiſtory of Cortez.

Frederic. You have gueſſed right; but don't you think, Charlotte, he ſeems as if he had quite forgotten his promiſe?

Charlotte. No, no, Frederic. Such good men as our dear father don't forget their promiſes; and (continued ſhe, jumping up) a ſudden thought ſtrikes me; ſuppoſe we were to go and ſeek him (I know that he is ſomewhere in the garden) and entreat him to oblige us; I do think he would, for I am certain that he loves to give us pleaſure.—What ſay you? Shall we try?

Frederic. With all my heart; and if we ſhould be lucky enough to be ſo ſucceſsful—

Charlotte. Oh, never fear; you know he is very good-natured.

With theſe words ſhe took her brother's hand, and went in ſearch of her father, whom at length they found in an arbour near the ſpot where their converſation had taken place. He had overheard their diſcourſe, and

and reſolved to oblige them: the little pleaders had not therefore much trouble to obtain their requeſt; which he had no ſooner agreed to, than jumping, ſkipping, and exclaiming, Cortez! Cortez! they haſtened to the houſe to collect their brothers to hear the recital. In a few minutes the good man was ſurrounded with his children, all anxiouſly inquiring if it were indeed true that they were to be ſo favoured that evening. Being anſwered in the affirmative, their ſatisfaction was not to be reſtrained; ſome pulled him by the hands, others hung upon his arms, and two held by the flaps of his coat, until, to get quit of their importunity, he took his place on the turf; ſome then haſtened to ſeek their mother, who being ſeated, the children placed themſelves around, waiting in anxious ſilence for the narrative to commence. For ſome minutes their father enjoyed the eager curioſity that was expreſſed on their features, when to their great ſatisfaction he at length began as follows:

CORTEZ.

DIALOGUE I.

THE FATHER.

I AM grieved, my children, to be under the neceſſity of informing you before-hand, that the pleaſure you promiſe yourſelves from my narrative will often give place to melancholy and diſguſt. I muſt bring you acquainted with times, in which men were ſo degenerate, ſo ſavage, that it is difficult to diſtinguiſh them from wolves, tigers, and other ferocious beaſts. This is indeed a gloomy ſcene, and willingly would I have ſpared you the pain of contemplating it: but ſome advantage will reſult to you from the

picture; you will be ſenſible that men are become more humaniſed, from the rational education they now receive in almoſt every country of the known world: happy are we to be born in an age where the means of information and of becoming wiſe, juſt, and humane, are equally open to all. The principal advantage that we can reap from the hiſtory of theſe barbarous times, is the learning how, juſtly to appreciate our own happineſs and our obligations to the Almighty; and the feeling an increaſe of affection for thoſe exalted characters which a beneficent Providence has been graciouſly pleaſed to make the companions of our earthly pilgrimage. Theſe are the reaſons, my children, that induce me to recount to you a narrative ſo replete with horrors as that of Cortez.

Diego Valaſquez had, as I have informed you, rendered himſelf maſter of the Iſle of *Cuba*; but the conqueſt was infinitely beneath his ambition, as he held it at the will of Diego Columbus, whoſe authority he wiſhed to throw off. The moſt probable means he conceived of effecting this was, the making of ſome new diſcovery of importance,

ance, which ſhould give him a right to an independent government; he therefore equipped two veſſels and a brigantine, directing his views to the Weſt, where there was every reaſon to believe an extenſive continent exiſted, though yet undiſcovered by any European.

Frederic. Pray, father, what is a brigantine?

The Father. An armed veſſel, or a ſmall man of war.—He gave the command of this ſquadron to one Hernandez de Cordova, who put to ſea with it. Here is a map of thoſe countries to which he is now ſailing. From this time it is neceſſary to have it before us. I need not, I ſuppoſe, tell you what countries are repreſented on it.

The Children. Oh, *Mexico*, or *New Spain*, to be ſure.

John. This at the bottom is *Old Mexico.*

Nicholas. And this above *New Mexico.*

John. Here, to the left, is the peninſula of *California.*

Theophilus. And here to the right is *Louiſiana*, and a part of *Florida.*

The Father. This ſea to the left is a part of the *Great*——

The Children. South Sea, or *Pacific Ocean.*

Chriſtian. And on this ſide, to the right, is part of the *Gulf of Mexico.*

The Father. Well, then, I ſhall hang the map on this tree, that we may have it ready to refer to.—Hernandez ſailed to that part of *Terra Firma* which is called *Yucatan*, and when he had reached the coaſt continued the ſame courſe till he arrived at *Campechy Bay.* Here it is (pointing out the place on the map with a ſtick).

John. Where the logwood, which is uſed for dyeing, grows; is it not?

The Father. The ſame.—Hernandez deſcended on different parts of the coaſt, and had ſome bloody encounters with the natives; but I ſhall paſs over theſe, and haſten to a detail of more important events. The inhabitants of this country were more civiliſed, and at the ſame time more warlike, than thoſe of the iſlands hitherto diſcovered. They wore quilted habits of cotton ſtuff; their weapons were wooden ſcymitars, pointed with

ſharp

ſharp flints, lances, bows, arrows, and bucklers. Their faces were painted of different colours, and their heads adorned with bunches of feathers: add to this, they were the only people of America who had regular buildings of clay or ſtone. In ſeveral different rencounters between them and the Spaniards they had the advantage; but in one of them, the latter took two Indian youths priſoners, who were afterwards baptized by the names of Julian and Melchor, and proved important acquiſitions, as the Spaniards made uſe of them as interpreters and mediators between them and the Mexicans.

One day having landed to fill their jars with freſh water, fifty Indians approached, and demanded if they were come from the place where the ſun roſe? The Spaniards having anſwered in the affirmative, the Indians conducted them to a temple built of ſtone, in which were ſeveral idols of different hideous forms, ſprinkled with blood apparently but newly ſhed. Immediately two men in black cloaks, with long black hair rolled up behind, advanced with little chafing-diſhes of clay, and throwing into them a ſort of

roſin, fumigated the Spaniards, and with this ceremony ordered them to quit the country under pain of death. The Spaniards, not thinking it ſafe to contend, obeyed, and returned to their veſſels.

John. What could the ſavages mean by this fumigation?

The Father. Among the ſuperſtitious Americans it was the uſual means by which they thought to ſecure themſelves from the effects of witchcraft; to the belief of which all ſavage nations are bigoted. Doubtleſs the remark that an odoriferous fumigation diſſipates infected vapours, gave riſe to the opinion that they might alſo, by the ſame means, drive away the evil ſpirits which their imagination had created. In another deſcent which they made near *Pontonchan*, they were attacked with ſuch fury by a large body of Indians, that forty-ſeven men were left dead upon the ſpot, and the reſt ſo dangerouſly wounded, that it was with the utmoſt difficulty they regained their veſſels. Of this laſt number was Hernandez de Cordova himſelf.

After this terrible defeat, they ſailed with all

all expedition for *Cuba*, where Hernandez, after having given a circumſtantial account of the whole to the governor Valaſquez, expired of his wounds.

Valaſquez experienced inexpreſſible joy at the tidings of the new diſcoveries made in his name, and reſolved to purſue them. He immediately therefore equipped three new veſſels, and a brigantine, giving the command to an officer of great courage and experience, named Grijalva, enjoining him expreſsly to bound his views to diſcoveries only, without making any eſtabliſhment in the countries.

Grijalva, like Hernandez, directed his courſe toward *Yucatan*; but the currents cauſed him inſenſibly to deviate a little towards the South, inſomuch that he reached land by a different cut. Not far from the Eaſtern coaſt of *Yucatan* he diſcovered the Iſle of *Cozumel*, which is ſtill ſubject to Spain. From thence he coaſted to *Pontonchan*, where the laſt fatal engagement had taken place. Here, deſirous of revenging their countrymen who had been ſlain, and of wiping off the diſgrace of the former defeat, they diſembarked.

embarked. The Indians, elate with their former advantages, marched courageouſly to attack them; but they were repulſed, and two hundred left dead upon the field. The reſt fled, and terror and diſmay were ſpread throughout the country. Grijalva again ſet ſail, and continued to ſteer in the ſame direction along the coaſt. The Spaniards in ſeveral diſtricts perceived towns and hamlets regularly built, with houſes of ſtone and clay, which their imagination, as they paſſed, repreſented much more conſiderable than they really were. They fancied they diſcovered ſo great a reſemblance between Spain and this country, that they gave it the name of *New Spain*, which it has preſerved to this day.

From thence they arrived at the mouth of a river, which the natives call *Tobaſco*, but to which the Spaniards, in honour of their chief, gave the name of *Grijalva*. You may ſee it here on the map. It now bears the latter name, but the diſtrict it waters is called *Tobaſco*. The whole country appeared ſo extremely fertile, and at the ſame time ſo well peopled, that Grijalva could not reſiſt the deſire

desire of informing himself more particularly concerning it. He disembarked therefore with all his troops armed, and found a body of Indians assembled, who, by a horrible cry, forbad him to advance. But Grijalva, without regarding their menaces, marched forward, and, halting within arrow-shot, arranged his men in order of battle, and sent the two young Americans, Julian and Melchor, who had been made captive by Hernandez, to inform them that he was not come to give them the least offence; but on the contrary to render them service, and that in consequence he was desirous of forming an alliance with them. The Indians, whom the close ranks, dress, and arms of the Europeans had already struck with astonishment, were still more surprised at this declaration. Some of their chiefs, however, ventured to advance alone, and were treated by Grijalva with the greatest affability. He assured them by his interpreter that he and his men were the subjects of a great king, the absolute sovereign of all the countries in which the sun rose; that he had sent him to summon them equally to acknowledge his superiority; and

that upon this point he attended their reſolution.

On theſe words a confuſed murmur aroſe among the Indians: at length one of their chiefs demanded ſilence, and in a firm voice replied: That it appeared extraordinary they ſhould talk of peace, and at the ſame time come to require their ſubmiſſion as dependants; that they were aſtoniſhed alſo they ſhould propoſe to them a new maſter, without being firſt informed whether they were diſſatisfied with the one they had till now obeyed; that, however, as the queſtion was Peace or war, it did not belong to him to give a deciſive anſwer: he would therefore communicate their propoſitions to his ſuperiors. With theſe words he left the Spaniards, who were not a little ſurpriſed at ſo rational and decided a reply.

The ſame chief returned a ſhort time after, and told Grijalva, that his ſuperiors were under no apprehenſions concerning the event of the war, if neceſſary, though no ſtrangers to what had happened at *Pontonchan*; nevertheleſs they acknowledged that peace was better than war, and, as a proof of their ſentiments,

timents, had brought ſuch proviſions as the country afforded, which they deſired them to accept. Soon after the Cacique himſelf appeared unarmed, and with a few attendants. Amicable ſalutes having paſſed on both ſides, the Cacique drew from a baſket which had been brought different ſorts of ſuperb armour of gold, ornamented with precious ſtones, and adorned with beautiful painted feathers, and told Grijalva, that as a proof he loved peace, he requeſted his acceptance of thoſe preſents; but to prevent any miſunderſtanding between them, he at the ſame time entreated him to leave the country as ſpeedily as poſſible.

The Spaniſh General returned the Cacique's civilities by different preſents, conſiſting of apparel and other articles, which appeared to be very acceptable, and promiſed, conformably to his wiſhes, to ſet ſail immediately; which he accordingly did.

Still coaſting in the ſame direction, he diſembarked on an iſland which lay at a little diſtance from the ſhore, where they alſo found the houſes built of ſtone, and a temple. In the middle of this temple, which was open

on

on all ſides, an altar was raiſed, on which were placed different miſshapen idols; and near it were extended the bodies of ſix men, who, conformably to the horrid cuſtom of the country, had been ſacrificed the night before. The impreſſion this dreadful ſpectacle made on the minds of the Spaniards cauſed them to name the country the *Iſle of Sacrifices:* You may ſee it on the map. They were ſoon confirmed in the opinion, that the inhuman cuſtom of ſacrificing men in honour of their idols reigned univerſally among this people; for, a ſhort time after their departure from the *Iſle of Sacrifices*, they caſt anchor at another iſland called by the natives *Kulva*, where they ſaw a ſtill greater number of victims immolated. At the ſight of ſuch abomination there was not one, even among the Spaniſh ſoldiers, dull and brutiſh as were their ideas, that did not ſhudder with horror. Grijalva to the former name of this iſland added his own, Juan, which has by degrees been corrupted into *St. Juan D'Ulua*, its preſent name. Here it is on the map (*pointing it out*).

Wherever they landed they found abundance

dance of gold, which, together with the fertility that was obſerved in paſſing the countries, inſpired ſeveral with the idea of ſettling on this rich coaſt; but Grijalva, ſcrupulouſly obſerving the orders which had been given him by the Governor Valaſquez, contented himſelf with ſimply taking poſſeſſion, in the name of the King of Spain, of all the countries in which he landed.

In this manner he coaſted till he arrived at the province of *Panuco*, which on this ſide is the laſt of *Mexico*, or *New Spain*; there, at the mouth of a river, he was attacked by a body of Indians with ſuch fury, that he was conſtrained to make a dreadful ſlaughter among them. He would then have continued to explore the coaſt further; but, alarmed at the violence of the contrary currents, he was forced to regain the road to *Cuba*. On his arrival the unjuſt and capricious Valaſquez ſeverely reprimanded him for not having profited by the favourable opportunity of founding a colony in ſo rich a country, although at his departure he had poſitively forbidden him to make any ſuch attempt.

Theophilus.

Theophilus. How! This was, I think, extremely unjuſt in Valaſquez.

The Father. He without doubt acted very abſurdly; but I am ſorry, my children, to be under a neceſſity of informing you that it is often thus in the world. Weak and wicked men not unfrequently lay to us, as crimes, our ſcrupulous exactneſs in fulfilling our duties; but happy is it for us when we ſuffer on this account; for then are we amply recompenſed by the grateful teſtimony of a good conſcience, and the joyful certainty that God, the eternal recompenſer of good and ill, will approve what men condemn; and what is the cenſure of men compared with the approbation of God and our own hearts? I ſhall now conclude for to-day.

Nicholas. I thought, my dear father, that you would have told us ſomething about Cortez; but we have not heard a word of him.

The Father. Were we going to repreſent a piece at the theatre, my dear Nicholas, what is the firſt thing that muſt be done?

Nicholas. The curtain muſt be drawn up.

The Father. Certainly: I have to-day therefore

therefore drawn aſide the curtain of my hiſtory. To-morrow, Cortez, my hero, will appear on the ſtage.

DIALOGUE II.

THE Father. Well, my children, the curtain is now drawn, and my hero ſhall appear. Valaſquez, at once ambitious, diſtruſtful, and inconſtant, reſolved to proſecute the great diſcoveries made in his name, and to reap from them the advantages which they appeared to offer in ſuch abundance. He equipped therefore with the utmoſt expedition ten veſſels from twenty-four to an hundred tons burden.

Charles. Pray, father, what is meant by the word tons?

The Father. I am glad that by your queſtion you give me an opportunity of explaining a term which is commonly made uſe of in

in the newſpapers, and wherever navigation is ſpoken of. By the word *ton*, taken in this ſenſe, mariners do not mean a tun or barrel of any kind, but a weight of two thouſand pounds, or twenty quintals; ſo that, reckoning the quintal a hundred pounds, a veſſel of a hundred tons ſignifies, in their language, a veſſel that is capable of containing 200,000 weight. But to continue. Valaſquez had not himſelf courage to head an expedition which promiſed to be attended with ſuch toils and dangers; he was obliged, therefore, to give the commiſſion to another: the queſtion was, to whom? One appeared to him too cowardly, another too bold, another too ſhallow, another too wiſe and cautious.

Chriſtian. But why too bold, or too wiſe and cautious?

The Father. He thought that a man of bravery and talents, after having made valuable acquiſitions, would ſoon grow weary of dependance, and think of throwing off the yoke of his dominion; and this was what his ambition could by no means brook; he was deſirous therefore of finding one, who to the talents and courage neceſſary for the undertaking

taking joined an entire devotion to his perſon, and a ſervile obedience to his orders; by whoſe means he ſhould achieve great exploits, but who would leave him all the honour and profit.

Ferdinand. Upon my word, this was no bad ſcheme of Mr. Valaſquez.

Henry. No? I think he acted very abſurdly.

Ferdinand. How ſo?

Henry. Why, did he not at once ſhow himſelf to be ſelfiſh, ambitious, and cowardly? If he wiſhed to reap all the honour and advantages of the enterpriſe, ſurely he alone ſhould have encountered the dangers and difficulties of it.

The Father. Henry is certainly right. Inſtead of ſearching for a man of ſervile character, he ſhould rather have fixed on one of tried probity, and have ſhared with him all the advantages of the enterpriſe; he would then have enſured ſucceſs, and at the ſame time the duration of his power. Fortune threw in his way a man of this deſcription, but he knew not how to make uſe of him.

Frederic.

Frederic. Who was it, father?

The Father. He, who from the preſent moment will be the hero of my hiſtory.

The Children. Ah! Cortez! Cortez!

The Father. Himſelf. But it is neceſſary that I firſt bring you a little acquainted with him. He was of noble origin, born at *Medellin*, a little city of *Spain*, in the province of *Eſtramadura*. From his earlieſt youth he had diſcovered extraordinary courage, indefatigable patience in enduring fatigues, an active imagination, and an ardent deſire to ſignaliſe himſelf by great actions. Such is the ſtamp with which young men are marked who mean one day to diſtinguiſh themſelves from their fellows. Scarcely had he left ſchool when he felt an irreſiſtible deſire to enter upon ſome career that ſhould lead him to the paths of glory. At that time all eyes were turned toward the *Weſt Indies*. He alſo directed his attention that way, and reſolved to become the aſſociate of thoſe adventurous men, who deſpiſing toils and dangers, ſet out with the view of enriching their country by new poſſeſſions, and acquiring for themſelves an honourable renown. He had juſt

juſt entered his twentieth year when he ſailed from Spain for *St. Domingo*; and even in this, his firſt voyage, fortune put his courage and fortitude to a ſevere proof. Dangers accumulated upon dangers, and toils upon toils; but the brave and vigorous young man, the ſtrength of whoſe body and mind is not exhauſted by ſloth, effeminacy, or diſſipation, deſpiſes all. Labour is to him a pleaſure; watching, hunger and thirſt, mere trifles; nay, death itſelf, if needful, a matter of indifference, for what are all the croſſes of life to a body animated by ſuch a ſpirit?

Peter. Dear father, is it not time that I endeavour to become ſuch a one?

The Children exclaim, And I alſo?

The Father. It certainly is: for, when the tree is once bent, the ſtem will never become ſtraight and vigorous, nor will it ever elevate its head towards the clouds. It is the ſame with the young man, whoſe body or mind has in infancy acquired ſome evil bent or vicious habit: it is nearly impoſſible to be overcome, or at leaſt requires a ſtronger exertion than common minds are capable of. Laborious indeed muſt it be for him to aſpire at

great or glorious actions; the unhappy propenſities of youth will preponderate, and retard, if not totally prevent, his riſing to any meritorious diſtinction, confounding him among the ignoble crowd of worthleſs men, who leave the world without having performed the ſmalleſt action to make them remembered by poſterity.

Mathias. Oh, that we could always bear in mind the good reſolutions we form!

Frederic. Ah, brother, I wiſh we could.

Mathias. Many a time have I determined to become a great man, but before I was aware have forgot my reſolution.

The Father. Since this is the caſe, a remedy muſt be contrived for what may become ſo fatal. I will prepare ſomething that ſhall, at different times, in each day refreſh your memory.

Nicholas. Dear! what can it be?

The Father. I will cauſe theſe words to be written on a board in large letters of gold, "*Think of the End*;" and this I will hang in our ſtudy exactly oppoſite the door, ſo that the words ſhall meet your eye whenever you enter; but you muſt promiſe me never

to look upon them, without at the ſame time making this reflection—"*The end I propoſe is to become a wiſe and good man*: I ought therefore to exert all my abilities to acquire ſomething uſeful, and to avoid every thing that may divert me from this great aim. Aſſiſt me, merciful Creator! with grace to remain true to my reſolution." If you every day make theſe wiſe reflections, I may venture to promiſe you, my children, that you will advance rapidly in virtue, and that you will become wiſe, uſeful, and good men.

Theophilus. I wiſh the board were there now.

The Father. In a few days your wiſh ſhall be accompliſhed. We will now return to our narrative: Cortez arrived at *St. Domingo* at the time Ovando was Governor. In his ſtature tall, of an agreeable countenance, with a natural affability of manners, his exterior alone was ſufficient to create an impreſſion in his favour; but this was rendered ſtill ſtronger by the excellent qualities of his heart and underſtanding: he was open, generous, and condeſcending, but at the ſame time wiſe, cautious, and diſcerning. In com-

pany he was cheerful, but never ſuffered his moſt lively ſallies to lead him into an expreſſion that ſhould be prejudicial to any one; no one better knew how to turn a compliment, though he deſpiſed a ſervile adherence to forms and ceremony.

Theſe excellent qualities ſoon gained him univerſal eſteem. Ovando himſelf conceived an affection for him, and was deſirous of detaining him at *St. Domingo*; but his adventurous ſpirit prompting him to aſpire at greater actions, he obtained permiſſion to accompany Valaſquez in his expedition to *Cuba*. There he ſoon found an opportunity of manifeſting his courage and great abilities, and roſe ſo rapidly, that in a ſhort time the important office of Alcade, or Chief Judge of *St. Jago*, the capital of *Cuba*, was confided to him. Such was the man to whom it was propoſed to Valaſquez to give the command of the fleet he had equipped; he approved the propoſition, and the choice was made. All who had a part in the expedition were inexpreſſibly rejoiced to ſerve under a man ſo ſkilful, ſo brave, and ſo generally beloved. Cortez was himſelf tranſported with ſo fair an opportunity

opportunity of bringing his talents into action, and with joy expended his whole property in procuring a greater proviſion of ammunition for war, and in aſſiſting thoſe who on account of their poverty were unable to defray the expence of their equipment. This generoſity employed ſo opportunely, rendered him entire maſter of the hearts of all who accompanied him; and the fleet being at length completely equipped, all the crew embarked. It conſiſted of three hundred Spaniards, and about two hundred of the inhabitants of the environs of *Cuba*, with ſome volunteers of the moſt diſtinguiſhed families. The imagination of all theſe adventurers was fixed alone on the glory and immenſe treaſures which they hoped to acquire in the expedition they had undertaken. The ſeaſon and the winds were favourable. Cortez gave the ſignal to weigh anchor, and the fleet ſet ſail the 18th of December, in the year 1518.

Ferdinand. Then it was juſt twenty-ſix years after the firſt diſcovery of America?

The Father. Exactly. The firſt place at which the fleet touched was *La Trinité*;

from thence it ſailed for the *Havannah*, in order to take in ſtill more men and a further ſupply of warlike and other ſtores. *La Trinité* and the *Havannah* are ports of the iſle of *Cuba*. Look at them once more on our map of the Weſt Indies. Till the moment in which Cortez ſailed, Valaſquez had appeared perfectly content with his choice; although ſome who were envious of his reputation endeavoured to inſpire him with diſtruſt; but ſcarcely was he departed when every thing appeared entirely different. "What," thought he, "ſhould Cortez abuſe the power that is confided to him! Should he no longer acknowledge my ſuperiority, and render himſelf independant in the countries he is about to conquer in my name!" At this ſuppoſition his cheek was fluſhed with the glow of anger and indignation; and his agitated countenance too clearly betrayed what paſſed in his mind. The deſpicable paraſites who ſecretly envied Cortez, did not fail to blow up the fire of ſuſpicious jealouſy that rankled at his heart. From this moment vexation and repentance preyed upon the narrow ſoul of Valaſquez, and he diſpatched to *La Trinité* an

an order to the Alcade to deprive Cortez, immediately on his arrival, of his letters patent.

Frederic. What do letters patent mean?

The Father. When any one is appointed to an office, an unſealed letter is given to him, in which the whole of his commiſſion is noted down, and all that has been agreed on. This is called a letter patent.

Frederic. Thank you, my dear father.

The Father. The Alcade of *La Trinité* communicated the orders he had received to Cortez; but he, unconſcious of guilt in any reſpect, did not conceive it his duty to conform to them; and aſſured the Alcade that ſome miſunderſtanding muſt be the cauſe of ſo ſudden an alteration in the ſentiments of the Governor: he perſuaded him, therefore, to defer the execution of the orders till an anſwer to a letter, which he ſhould immediately diſpatch to the Governor, could be received. The Alcade, who was not in a ſituation to execute his commiſſion by violence, conſented to the delay. Cortez then wrote to the Governor, and immediately ſailed for the *Havannah.*

Here he was obliged to remain ſome time,

as well to take in the recruits he expected, as to embark other articles which appeared indiſpenſibly neceſſary to an enterpriſe of this nature; eſpecially a ſort of cuiraſſes, compoſed of thick cotton. Cortez had choſen cotton in the firſt inſtance from a ſcarcity of iron; but he afterwards learnt from experience, that the cotton ſlightly quilted between two linens was a better guard than iron againſt the arrows and javelins of the Americans, as they not only loſt all their force, but remained entangled at the point. The iron cuiraſſes on the contrary repulſed them, and by theſe means cauſed them to wound the perſon who ſtood next. This, together with the ſuperior convenience of ſuch light armour in a hot country, made it afterwards uſually choſen by the European warriors who ſerved in America. Thus it is that neceſſity has often given birth to the moſt ingenious and uſeful inventions. At length all was prepared.—The whole ſquadron conſiſted of eleven veſſels; the largeſt of a hundred tons burden, not more conſiderable now than a ſmall merchant ſhip, was choſen for the Admiral's veſſel; three

others

others were from ſeventy to eighty tons, and the reſt were but ſmall open boats.

John. Of how many tons burden are the merchant ſhips commonly that we now ſee in our ports?

The Father. From a hundred to five hundred; but there are of a thouſand, nay of eleven hundred tons burden, which trade to the Weſt Indies, and which are as large as men of war.

Cortez's crew amounted to ſix hundred and ſeventeen men, of whom upwards of a hundred were ſailors and mechanics, and the reſt ſoldiers. Of the whole number thirteen only were armed with muſkets, and thirty-two with croſs-bows, the reſt had ſwords and lances; ſo limited was at that time the uſe of fire-arms. The principal part of the armament conſiſted of ſixteen horſes, ten ſmall pieces of cannon, which were then called field pieces, and four culverins, which are a ſort of cannon very long and ſmall, now ſeldom made uſe of. It was with this trifling armament Cortez ſet ſail to make war in an unknown land, on a powerful King whoſe domains, united with thoſe of his neighbours,

were far more extenſive than all the countries computed together that were then under the dominion of the King of Spain. This King was the Sovereign of *Mexico*, of whoſe power and magnificence you will ſoon hear more.

Frederic. But what had he done to the King of Spain that he ſhould make war upon him?

The Father. Nothing.

Frederic. Why then did he make war?

The Father. To become maſter of his treaſures, cities, people, and country.

Frederic. The Spaniards were then robbers, father!

The Father. Nothing more, my dear Frederic.

Frederic. Oh, fye! I have done with Cortez. I thought he had been a generous, good man!

The Father. He was ſo in many reſpects. In thoſe days ſuch dreadful ſuperſtition reigned among men, that all who did not profeſs the Chriſtian religion were not conſidered as beings of the ſame order, but as creatures deſerving only of hatred, rejected by

by God, and deſtined to eternal torments. Upon this principle it was held as a very pious and praiſeworthy action to perſecute theſe unfortunate people, deſpoil them of their property, ſubject them to the yoke of oppreſſion, and force them to embrace the doctrines of Chriſtianity. Cortez, acute as his judgment was in other reſpects, was blinded by this abſurd idea. He conſidered himſelf as an inſtrument in the hand of God to puniſh the infidels of America, and compel them to become Chriſtians. Is it aſtoniſhing, therefore, that with ſuch ſentiments he ſhould engage in the moſt unjuſt war that ever diſgraced the annals of hiſtory, with as much facility as we would now enter the chace in purſuit of a hare or a fox. You ſee, therefore, my children, that it is poſſible for the ſame man to be at once a hero and a robber, generous and cruel, pious and inhuman! It is the natural effect of ſuperſtition. It never once occurred to Cortez, that it might be unjuſt to make war upon a people who could never have injured the Europeans, ſince they knew not that they exiſted. The misfortune of theſe poor people in never

having heard that they had a Mediator, was a ſufficient reaſon for perſecuting and ſubduing them! Oh, that there had been one enlightened, one courageous friend to humanity, to have opened the eyes of the blinded Cortez, by thus addreſſing him—"What art thou about, unhappy man? What has been the crime of theſe harmleſs people, in whoſe blood thou are about to imbrue thy hands? What injury have they done to thy King, or to thy Country? Is it a crime to diſbelieve what is believed in Europe, if we have never heard that a Europe exiſts? Or are they not men becauſe they are not Chriſtians? Awake, Barbarian, and behold if they do not bear the form of man! Behold them trembling at the ſight of thy armed aſſaſſins, and acknowledge that they are fleſh of thy fleſh, and bone of thy bone! Look at their faces, and ſee if thou canſt not trace ſome family reſemblance! When thou humbleſt the wretched Indian at thy feet, doſt thou not feel a palpitation at thy heart, and hear from the inmoſt receſſes of thy ſoul the voice of nature exclaim, "Tyrant, 'tis thy brother whom thou thus degradeſt, and who art thou? Chriſtian doſt

doſt thou name thyſelf? the diſciple of the mild Jeſus, of him whoſe whole doctrine, whoſe whole life breathed only love? Art thou too the adorer of that merciful Being who cauſeth his ſun to ſhine on the good and on the wicked, and his rain to fall on the juſt and on the unjuſt? Doſt thou think, infatuated man! if it were the will of the all powerful God to puniſh the involuntary ignorance of this people, that he would have required thy arm? or that he would have appointed thee to diſcharge the function in his place? Would he have commanded thee to become the executioner, the aſſaſſin, of thy brethren? Go, wretched worm! and before thou attempteſt to convert others to chriſtianity by the ſword, ſtudy the pacific ſpirit of that doctrine, which was not given to ſow diſcord among men, to favour murder and war, but to unite all nations by the cloſe ties of benevolence and love."

Had one been found to have ſpoken thus to Cortez, the miſt with which ſuperſtition had enveloped his otherwiſe great ſoul might have been diſſipated, and with the ſame zeal he employed in extirpating the ſuffering Indians

dians might he have ſheathed his ſword, or have become their declared protector againſt the other bands of European robbers. But, as he had no friend who was not equally under the ſame influence as himſelf, his unawakened conſcience was ſilent, and the fate of the poor Americans was irrevocably fixed. But to proceed with our hiſtory: Valaſquez, with the greateſt vexation, underſtood, that notwithſtanding his expreſs orders to the contrary, Cortez had been ſuffered to depart from *La Trinité*: he accuſed of treaſon the officer who had been charged with the commiſſion, and as his ſuſpicions concerning Cortez now knew no bounds, he took the earlieſt precautions to prevent his eſcaping a ſecond time, and departing from the *Havannah*. In conſequence, he with all ſpeed diſpatched a confidential meſſenger to the Governor of that place, with ſtrict orders immediately to ſeize the perſon of Cortez, and to ſend him priſoner under a good eſcort to *St. Jago*. Fortunately Cortez was apprized of the ſtorm that threatened him time enough to provide for his ſafety. He immediately aſſembled all his men, of whoſe affection he enter-

entertained no doubt, and, diſcloſing to them his danger, requeſted that they would declare their ſentiments reſpecting it. All were unanimous in exclaiming, that he ought not to perplex himſelf with the unjuſt caprice of the Governor, nor reſign the command he had lawfully received, neither deliver himſelf into the hands of a judge as iniquitous as he was ſuſpicious. They entreated, they conjured him not to deprive them, at the moment of embarking on ſo important an expedition, of a chief in whom they repoſed entire confidence, and whom they were ready to follow till death, through all the fatigues and dangers they might encounter.

Cortez was ſoon prevailed on to grant that, to which his own inclination already prompted him; he therefore thanked the ſoldiers for the affection they diſcovered toward him, and ordered them immediately to weigh anchor and ſet ſail.——And now, my children, let us alſo weigh anchor and ſteer toward the pavilion to partake of the rural ſupper that is prepared for us.

DIALOGUE

DIALOGUE III.

THEOPHILUS. To what part of the empire of *Mexico*, father, did Cortez ſteer?

The Father. He had reſolved to follow exactly the ſame courſe as Grijalva had purſued before him: he ſailed therefore immediately to the iſle of *Cozumel.* A Spaniard having been formerly ſhipwrecked on that coaſt, and remaining ſtill a ſlave to the Indians, his firſt object was to ſet him at liberty. This poor man was named Aquilar; and in the ſpace of eight years which he had paſſed among the ſavages, he had entirely loſt all traces of an European. He had ſo exactly contracted the colour, language, and manners of the natives, that it was with difficulty he was recognized for a Spaniard. He went naked as they did, his ſkin was tawny, and his hair, in the manner of the country, was twiſted round his head. He bore an oar on his ſhoulder, had a bow in his hand, and on his back

back were a buckler and arrows. All his poſſeſſions conſiſted of a woven bag, containing his food, and an old prayer-book, which he frequently peruſed; but he had already ſo much forgotten the pronunciation of his mother tongue, that it was ſcarcely poſſible to underſtand him. According to his account, nineteen had at firſt ſuffered ſhipwreck in the environs of that coaſt; but ſeven had died of hunger and fatigue, the reſt fell into the hands of the Cacique of the country, who immediately ſacrificed five to his idols, and afterwards ate them; the remainder he confined in a ſort of cage in order to fatten them, but they had the good fortune to make their eſcape. Deſponding and without ſuccour, their only reſource then was to wander in the foreſts, ſubſiſting on what herbs and roots they could find there. In this melancholy condition they were at length diſcovered by ſome Indians, who conducted them to another Cacique, an enemy to the former, who, except impoſing on them daily a laborious taſk, treated them very humanely. Shortly after, all the Spaniards, except Aquilar and one named

named Guerrero, died. Theſe had ſoon an opportunity of rendering the Cacique ſuch ſignal ſervices in war, that he conceived an extraordinary affection for them. Guerrero married an Indian woman of diſtinguiſhed rank, and was ſoon raiſed to a command in the army: in ſhort, he was by degrees become ſo much of an American, that on the arrival of the Spaniards he expreſſed no inclination to change his condition. He did not even once appear before them, withheld perhaps by ſhame; for, by the account of Aquilar, like a true Indian, he had pierced his noſe, and painted the different parts of his body in the manner of the ſavages.

Cortez embraced poor Aquilar, and covered him with his own cloak, rejoicing greatly at the acquiſition of ſo uſeful a perſon; for, as during his long reſidence in the country he had acquired a perfect knowledge of the language, Cortez conceived with reaſon that he would be of infinite utility to him in his negotiations with the Indians.

From *Cozumel* he proceeded to that part of the province of *Tobaſco*, where the river *Grijalva*

Grijalva falls into the ſea. Here he ex-
pected to have experienced the ſame recep-
tion as his predeceſſor, whoſe name the river
bore. But in this he was deceived; for, at the
ſight of the European veſſels, the natives ran
in crowds to the ſhore, and appeared reſo-
lute to oppoſe his deſcent. Aquilar was diſ-
patched to make propoſitions of peace, but
in vain; they would not even permit him to
ſpeak, and he returned without ſucceſs. This
incident was to Cortez as diſagreeable as it
was unexpected. His intention had by no
means been to begin his conqueſts here. He
wiſhed on the contrary to gain as ſpeedily as
poſſible the coaſts that lay neareſt the centre
of the Great Empire of *Mexico*, intending
there to commence the projected attack. But
he now found himſelf in the diſagreeable pre-
dicament either of intimidating the ſavages
by threats, or of beginning in this remote
province a war, which, however ſucceſsful it
might prove, muſt neceſſarily coſt him time
and men, neither of which he could by any
means ſpare. Yet to retire, he with reaſon
feared would be conſidered by the Indians as
a mark of cowardice, and would render them
ſtill

ſtill more inſolent and untractable; a circumſtance which, after mature conſideration, appeared to him of ſuch importance, that he regarded it as indiſpenſibly neceſſary to attack the ſavages. Night, which now began to approach, prevented the immediate execution of this deſign: the attack was therefore deferred till the next morning, and the interval employed in the neceſſary preparations.

At day-break all was diſpoſed in order for battle. Cortez arranged his ſquadron in a ſemi-circle; and in this poſition, which the narrow banks of the river rendered judicious, he began to ſail with the current; but before he came to action he reſolved once more to attempt an accommodation, and for this purpoſe ſent Aquilar to announce to the ſavages that it ſhould ſtill depend on them to appear as friends or enemies. Aquilar prepared to execute his commiſſion; but the Indians, inſtead of liſtening to him, gave the ſignal of attack, and directed their canoes towards the European fleet. The Indians began the engagement by a ſhower of arrows and ſtones which extremely annoyed the Spaniards, who nevertheleſs ſuffered them to proceed thus fa

far without oppoſition; but Cortez now gave the ſignal of defence, and by a ſingle broadſide of his artillery put an end to the action. The Indians, ſtunned by the unexpected thunder which roared againſt them, and terrified at the effects it produced, leaped precipitately into the water, and exerted all their ſtrength to eſcape by ſwimming. The Spaniſh veſſels in the mean time gained the ſhore, and Cortez and his men diſembarked without oppoſition: but all was not yet accompliſhed; the Indians who had eſcaped from their enemies had fled into a thicket, in which a much greater number of theſe ſavage warriors were aſſembled: theſe, while Cortez was engaged in arranging his men in order of battle, fell upon him. Their attack with arrows, javelins, and ſtones, mingled with their ſavage cry of war, was really formidable; but Cortez, perfectly unmoved, continued to form his lines till the whole corps was in complete order to engage; he then advanced courageouſly to the encounter, and with an admirable boldneſs pierced through their profound moraſſes and entangled foreſts, terror and death preceding him,

him, and opening him a paſſage to innumerable ſwarms of enemies. An army of warriors in battle array, with European arms was a ſight equally new and terrible to the Indians; they durſt not wait the attack, but fled precipitately before them. Cortez fought at the head of his men with an heroic courage nothing could reſiſt. In the beginning of the action he had left one of his ſhoes in the deep moraſs, by which he neceſſarily paſſed; and ſo much was his mind engaged in the action, that he was not ſenſible of his loſs till after it was over. The enemy fled to *Tobaſco*, a fortified place.

John. Fortified?

The Father. Yes; but it was a fortification conſiſting only of a range of ſtakes driven into the ground like our paliſades, which ſurrounded the city in a circular form. Between this range, which was double, was a narrow path, which led to the city in a ſerpentine direction. Notwithſtanding the imminent danger it threatened, Cortez heſitated not an inſtant to advance by this winding path; but on reaching the town, he found the entrance, as well as the ſtreets, barricaded with

with ſtakes, and the inhabitants diſpoſed to make head a ſecond time. This new combat was ſoon alſo decided. The Indians were again repulſed, but not entirely ſubdued. They rallied in the ſquare of the city; again attempted the moſt obſtinate reſiſtance, and were again routed. After this, they fled into the foreſts. *Tobaſco* was taken, and the battle entirely ended.——Now, my children, inform me what have been your ſenſations during this recital? For whom have you been intereſted? Have you wiſhed the victory to the brave Cortez, or to the Americans?

Some of the Children. Oh, to the firſt, to be ſure.

Others. Oh, fye! No, certainly to the latter.

The Father. Let us hear your reaſons, Ferdinand; and you that are of his opinion, ſpeak. Why do you take the part of Cortez?

Ferdinand. Becauſe he fought with ſo much bravery.

Frederic. And becauſe he would willingly have had peace, if the ſavages would have conſented.

Theophilus.

Theophilus. Yes; and beſide this, he is our countryman.

Chriſtian. And the hiſtory would probably have concluded, had Cortez been conquered or killed.

Henry. Theſe are fine reaſons indeed! Pray did not the Americans conduct themſelves with equal bravery?

John. And did they come to invade the country of the Spaniards? Was it not rather the Spaniards who came to fall upon them?

Nicholas. And are not the Americans equally our brethren when they act with rectitude and juſtice?

Mathias. Chriſtian, I think, has given a droll reaſon for his wiſhing ſucceſs to Cortez. Was it neceſſary for the poor Americans to be killed, that our father might have ſomething to recount to us?

Henry. For my part, I would rather the Spaniards had been repulſed, even if the hiſtory had never been related.

The Father to Henry, John, and Mathias. Well, my children, you have judiciouſly rectified the error of your brothers; but I muſt at the ſame time alſo ſay a few words in their juſtification.

juſtification. I dare anſwer for it that during the battle, and before we had time to reaſon upon the ſubject, we ſhould all have been inclined to take the part of Cortez, and I fear the ſame will frequently happen as we proceed in the hiſtory. We ſhall often forget that our European countrymen are a band of robbers, and that, on the contrary, the poor Americans are the innocent and oppreſſed party; and, if the victory were in our power, ſhould each time award it to the man for whom we have already conceived ſo great a predilection. Do not let this aſtoniſh you; the principle from which it ariſes is not abſolutely bad; it is in the nature of the human mind to be intereſted for thoſe who are remarkable for courage and extraordinary exertions: 'Tis true we ought to conſider to what purpoſe this courage is employed, and what is the end of theſe exertions; but in the warmth of our admiration we commonly forget this; and hence it occurs, that we are frequently forced, upon cool reflection, to abandon with horror the intereſt we have embraced. Thus, my children, it happened with your brothers, when inclined

to favour Cortez and his banditti: the extraordinary courage and perſeverance of the Spaniards in ſurmounting the obſtacles they encountered, were alone preſent to their imagination; they were far from thinking of the innocence of the Americans, or of the natural right they had to drive from their lands rapacious ſtrangers, who preſented themſelves ſword in hand. But now that I have pointed out all this, I am convinced they will form a different judgment. Is it not ſo, Chriſtian?

Chriſtian. Certainly, father. But what I ſaid was only in jeſt.

The Father. I am ſenſible it was:—but we will now return to *Tobaſco.* Cortez did not permit his ſoldiers to purſue the Indians in their retreat; and in this I diſtinguiſh the man whom thirſt of blood had not induced to become the oppreſſor of his fellows, but who was hurried on by the falſe opinion that he was doing his duty. The booty was beneath the expectation of the Spaniards; the Indians having carried off into the woods all that was valuable, leaving only a ſtore of proviſions, which came very *à-propos* to the weary

weary and famiſhed Spaniards. In the early part of the night Gortez ſtationed all his men in three temples, ſituated in the moſt elevated parts of the city, and took care to place ſentinels to ſecure them from all nocturnal ſurpriſe. He himſelf ſeveral times went the round; that is to ſay, he went to ſee that the ſentinels he had poſted did their duty. Towards morning he cauſed the environs of the woods to be viſited, but none of the Indians were either to be heard or ſeen.

This appeared ſuſpicious; and in conſequence he diſpatched ſpies into the more diſtant diſtricts, who returned with the diſagreeable intelligence that they diſtinguiſhed an innumerable body of the natives, whom they eſtimated at not leſs than forty thouſand, who were apparently preparing to renew the attack. Situated as Cortez then was, this news would have been ſufficient to intimidate the moſt courageous; for what was not to be expected from a body almoſt an hundred times ſuperior in number, compoſed of men driven to the laſt extremity, and reduced to the neceſſity of fighting for their country, their temples, their lives, and their liberty? Cor-

tez felt the danger of his ſituation in its fulleſt extent; but, entire maſter of his paſſions, he aſſumed an air as tranquil and ſerene as if the matter in debate had been a mere trifle. His example inſpired his men with equal intrepidity, and they joyfully followed their leader into a place where he choſe for them a poſt, the moſt advantageous relative to their ſmall number.

Here Cortez arranged his little army in order of battle at the foot of a hill, the height of which defended them from an attack behind, while from the ſummit he could play off his artillery with the greater freedom and effect. He himſelf retired with his cavalry into an adjacent wood, that he might from thence at a proper opportunity fall unawares upon the enemy. Thus arranged, in formidable ſilence they expected its approach.

At length it appeared——But, that you may form a lively idea of the manner in which the people of America made war, I will, before I proceed, give you a circumſtantial detail both of their equipment and of their conduct during a battle.

The

The greater part of them were armed with bows and arrows. The bow-ſtrings were made of the entrails of beaſts, or of the hair of deer twiſted, and the arrows of ſtrong fiſh bones pointed. Their javelins were formed either to lanch afar, or to be uſed as ſwords in cloſer encounters; but one of their moſt formidable weapons was a ſabre, made of hard wood, the edge of which was compoſed of ſharp ſtones, and ſo weighty, that, like a hatchet, both hands were neceſſary to make uſe of it. Some among them alſo carried clubs; others ſlings, with which they had the art of hurling large ſtones very dexterouſly and with great effect.

The chiefs alone made uſe of defenſive arms, which conſiſted of a quilted cotton cuiraſs, and a buckler of wood, or the ſhell of the tortoiſe. The reſt were quite naked; but to give them a terrific air, they painted their faces and bodies of various colours, and, to add to their ſtature, wore upon their heads a bunch of large feathers.

Their martial muſic agreed with their equipment. They uſed a flute made of reeds, and large ſhells for their wind inſtruments,

with a drum formed of the trunk of a tree hollowed. The art of combating in close ranks was absolutely unknown to them; but they observed a certain order in dividing their army into small parties, of which each had its chief. They had also in common with the Europeans the method of not leading all their forces at once into the field, but of reserving a part for a resource; or to speak in the military language, for a *corps de reserve* to come as necessity required to the assistance of those who were foremost.

Their first attack was accompanied by a horrible and excessively piercing cry; but if it happened that the enemy sustained this onset, and succeeded in throwing the first ranks that advanced into disorder, and making them give way; then, on account of the press and confusion, the whole army was in a few minutes routed, and a general flight ensued. Such was the enemy that the Spanish corps saw advance towards them in numerous battalions. Firm and unmoved, the little army of Europeans expected the attack in silence. They were already advanced within bow-shot, and began the combat by a horrid

horrid cry, and a ſhower of arrows which obſcured the air. The Spaniards anſwered them by the thunder of cannons and muſkets, which ſoon thinned the battalions of the enemy; but the intrepid Indians, far from being intimidated, with ſhouts of defiance filled up the breaches they had made. They threw ſand into the air, by a cloud of duſt, to conceal their loſs, and, drawing their arrows, ruſhed with ardour into the thickeſt of the battle. The Spaniards did their utmoſt to reſiſt the ſuperior force of the enemy; but their fury, and the numbers that advanced cloſe upon each other, rendered it impoſſible long to reſiſt. Their ranks were already broken in ſeveral places, and ſeemed the dreadful prelude of an entire defeat, when on a ſudden Cortez iſſued from the wood at the head of his cavalry, and fell upon the centre of this formidable multitude. This was a ſpectacle equally new and terrible to the poor Indians, who had never before ſeen men on horſeback. They were immediately ſtruck with the idea that uſually prevailed, viz. that the two compoſed only one monſter, half man and half beaſt; and ſo great was the ſur-

priſe it cauſed, that their weapons fell from their hands. This gave the Spaniards time to rally, the fire of the artillery became fiercer, and the poor Indians, preſſed on all ſides and half dead with terror, fled in diſorder.

Cortez, ſatisfied with having a ſecond time ſhown his ſuperiority, immediately gave orders for the ſlaughter to ceaſe; contenting himſelf with cauſing ſome of the fugitives to be taken alive, in order to make uſe of them in concluding a peace with the whole nation. Eight hundred Indians were left dead on the field of battle, while the Spaniards loſt only two men; but there were ſeventy wounded. The number of the wounded among the Indians could not be aſcertained, all thoſe who had ſtrength ſufficient having fled.

The next day Cortez cauſed ſome of the priſoners to be brought before him: terror and anguiſh were impreſſed on their countenances, each expecting to hear his ſentence of death pronounced; but what was their joy and ſurpriſe, when the Spaniſh General received them with the utmoſt kindneſs, and announced to them by Aquilar that they were free!

free! Their tranſports were ſtill further increaſed, when Cortez to this unexpected pardon added a preſent of European baubles, which he knew would pleaſe them. Frantic with joy, they haſtened to inform their companions how generouſly they had been treated; and what is commonly the conſequence of generoſity and kindneſs followed, viz. the gaining of thoſe hearts which were but a ſhort time before filled with rage and vengeance.

Full of confidence and good-will, ſeveral Indians came down ſoon after to bring them proviſions, and were magnificently rewarded. The Cacique himſelf ſent ambaſſadors with preſents to demand peace, which was readily granted; and as he came ſhortly after in perſon, it was confirmed by reciprocal preſents, which were agreeable to both parties. Among others, the Cacique ſent Cortez twenty young girls who were acquainted with the art of making the Indian bread. One of them, who was afterwards baptized by the name of Marian, was the daughter of an Indian Cacique. She had been forced from him in early youth, and had afterwards been ſold to

the Cacique of *Tobaſco*. This young Indian united to great beauty extraordinary talents; and as ſhe in a ſhort time acquired the Spaniſh language, ſhe rendered great ſervices to the Spaniſh General in his negotiations with the Mexicans.

It is ſaid that Cortez from gratitude married her, and that they had a ſon named Martin Cortez.

While the Cacique and the principal Indians were converſing with Cortez, the horſes of the Spaniards were heard to neigh: this alarmed the Indians, who inquired with terror what thoſe formidable powers (meaning the horſes) would have? The Spaniards replied, that they were enraged with them for not having puniſhed the Cacique and his people for their preſumption in having oppoſed the Chriſtians. Scarcely was this anſwer given, when, with the view of effecting a reconciliation with theſe tremendous creatures, they ran and brought quilts for them to repoſe on, and a variety of poultry to regale them; humbly aſking pardon for their offence, and promiſing thenceforth to acknowledge the ſuperiority of the Chriſtians.

The Spaniards then made preparations for their departure, ſtill continuing in the reſolution of advancing toward the weſtern coaſt of the country. To-morrow, if the wind be favourable, we will attend their departure.

Peter. What wind was neceſſary to them, father?

The Father. The map will inform you. Look, here is *Tobaſco*; on that ſide is *Vera Cruz*, for which they intended to ſail. Now what wind do you think was neceſſary?

Peter. A wind from the Eaſt.

The Father. Well then, imagine yourſelves in the ſituation of Cortez. Look well to the vane, and tell me when the wind, which is now in the weſt, ſhifts to the eaſt; for till then I ſhall proceed no farther with my hiſtory; I am reſolved, like Cortez, to remain at anchor.

DIALOGUE IV.

THE young folks, who knew it was uſeleſs to diſpute any reſolution which their father had once formed, often turned a wiſhful look toward the vane, to ſee if the wind ſhifted toward the eaſt, ſince that was the period he had fixed for the exerciſe of their patience; but, alas! it continued long in the weſt, and conſequently their entertainment was ſuſpended.—"This is juſt as we were ſerved at Copenhagen," ſaid John, alluding to an excurſion they had made a few months before with their father, and in which they were for ſome days weather-bound. "How vexatious that the wind does not change!"—"And this, my dear boy," ſaid the father, who overheard the exclamation, "is exactly what will often happen to you in your progreſs through life. You muſt not always expect favourable gales; your moſt ardent wiſhes

wiſhes will be often diſappointed. When chance therefore affords you an opportunity of exerciſing ſo neceſſary a virtue as patience, conſider it as a peculiar advantage, and fail not to profit by it; for, be aſſured, my children, very often in your intercourſe with mankind will you have need of it. Woe be to thoſe who neglect the culture till the moment in which the practice is become neceſſary! Patience, young citizens of the world, remember patience! which muſt aſſiſt your navigation on the ocean of life. Be aſſured that there are many calms, tempeſts, and contrary winds, which will retard your progreſs, cauſe you to deviate from your courſe, ſtrand your bark on dangerous quickſands, and even ſhatter it among rocks. Therefore, once more remember patience; and may the trifling vexation you now ſuffer from the continuance of the weſterly wind, prepare you all to endure greater ſhould occaſion require!"

During ſeveral days after, the wind continued to blow without interruption from the weſt, and the narrative was ſtill delayed. At length, one morning between five and ſix o'clock,

o'clock, juſt after their father was riſen, thoſe among the young people who were the moſt impatient to hear the hiſtory, and who had for ſeveral days riſen earlier to examine the wind, ruſhed into his chamber, and almoſt ſtunned him with the cry of "An eaſterly wind! An eaſterly wind!" In vain did he entreat them to ſpare the drum of his ears, for which he was ſeriouſly alarmed. No quarter was given; they laughed, they jumped, they ſung, till ſelf-defence obliged him, with the loſs of one of his ſlippers, to follow them into the meeting parlour, where he ſeated himſelf, and, having rubbed his eyes, which were yet ſcarcely open, began as follows:

"Rejoiced at the ſucceſs of a war, which might have been attended with the moſt fatal conſequences, and inſpired with the hope of being equally fortunate in his other enterpriſes, Cortez, with his victorious army, quitted the province of *Tobaſco* to proceed in his perilous career. All having re-embarked, they weighed anchor; a freſh gale from the eaſt filled their ſails, and the ſquadron ſteered to the weſtward."—Here their father roſe, and,

and, making a profound bow to his young auditors, without uttering a word withdrew to his chamber to finiſh dreſſing himſelf. In vain did they entreat him to return, and even ſome of them ran after him to bring him back. "You had certainly," ſaid he, "a right to exact the performance of my promiſe; but I promiſed nothing more than to let the Spaniards depart as ſoon as we ſhould have an eaſterly wind. I have kept my word, and you have a right to exact no more: ſuffer me now to be as punctual in my promiſe, as you have been in maintaining your rights. In the evening I will continue." With theſe laſt words he left them; and, as reaſon was evidently on his ſide, no one had courage to reply. Each had therefore recourſe to patience. Evening at length arrived, to the great ſatisfaction of his young auditors, when their father without further preamble began in theſe words:

Cortez in this ſecond voyage viſited all the places at which Grijalva had before touched. He alſo at length arrived at the iſle of *St. Juan de Ulua*, of which I lately ſpoke, and cauſed his ſquadron to caſt anchor between that

that iſland and the main land. He had not continued there long, before two pirogues or Indian barks, made ſimply of the trunks of large trees, approached. The Indians who were in them, and who appeared to be of conſideration, ſhowed neither defiance nor fear, and Cortez received them on board his veſſel with every mark of amity. On their beginning to converſe, Cortez expected to hear their propoſitions from his interpreter Aquilar; but was much diſappointed to find that he underſtood not one word of the Mexican tongue, which was ſpoken by theſe Indians; and they on their part were entirely ignorant of that of *Yucatan*, the two languages being totally different. This was an unlucky circumſtance for Cortez: he nevertheleſs remarked with great joy that one of the *Tobaſco* ſlaves named Marian, ſhe of whom we have before ſpoken ſo highly, entered into earneſt diſcourſe with ſome of the Indians; and he ſoon found that this young woman, being born in a province of the Mexican Empire, and after her captivity having been carried to *Yucatan*, ſpoke with equal facility the language of both countries. Negotiations

gotiations therefore immediately commenced. Marian addreſſed the Mexicans in their own tongue, and communicated the ſubſtance of their propoſitions in the Yucatan language to Aquilar, who, thus informed, conveyed it to the General in Spaniſh.

Thus it was neceſſary on both ſides for explanations to take place in three different languages before they could render themſelves intelligible. Cortez at length, by theſe indirect means, underſtood that Pilpator, Governor of the country, and Teutile, General of the Great Emperor Montezuma, had commiſſioned theſe Indians to inquire with what intention he was come thither, and to offer him the ſuccours he had occaſion for to proceed on his voyage. I conclude it is unneceſſary to point out to you, that the ſtyle of this addreſs beſpoke a people very different from all the ſavage tribes they had hitherto encountered in the Weſt Indies. Cortez felt the difference, and replied in the moſt polite and gracious terms, that he was come with the amicable intention to bring the chief of their nation tidings that would prove intereſting to the whole country. He then

ſent

ſent back the ambaſſadors loaded with preſents, and immediately, without awaiting their return, began to diſembark his men, horſes, cannon, and all his artillery of war. The peaceable inhabitants of the diſtrict ran in crowds to lend an aſſiſting hand to thoſe who were ſoon to become their oppreſſors, and to conſtruct for them cabins of the branches of trees. Oh! that their tutelary angel had diſcloſed to them the future, and ſhown them the return they would one day meet for the hoſpitable aſſiſtance they now preſſed forward with ſuch haſte to give! How would they have ſhuddered before theſe wolves in ſheep's clothing, and have exerted their utmoſt efforts to have driven them from their coaſts! But Providence, whoſe deſigns are impenetrable, had decreed that theſe unfortunate people ſhould bend beneath the European yoke. The reaſon is only known to Him who governs the univerſe with a goodneſs and wiſdom that is unchangeable, and who ſuffers a ſmall evil that unmeaſurable good may ſoon or late accrue from it. Senſible of our own littleneſs, it is our part to adore in ſilence. The next day Pilpator

pator and Teutile appeared in perſon with a numerous ſuite of armed Mexicans. Their equipage was magnificent, and conformable to the majeſty of a powerful Sovereign. Cortez thought it policy to make on his ſide as much parade as circumſtances would admit, to inſpire the Mexicans with a high opinion of him, and of the Potentate whoſe ambaſſador he announced himſelf. In conſequence he ordered his ſoldiers to remain near him with all their military pomp, and to keep a reſpectful ſilence. After this he received the Mexican grandees with an air of dignity calculated to command reſpect: to the queſtions they put to him, he replied with brevity and an affected haughtineſs, that he was come from Charles of Auſtria, the great and powerful Emperor of the Eaſt; that this Monarch had charged him with propoſitions to the Emperor Montezuma, which required a perſonal interview, and that he deſired to be conducted to him.

As ſome among you have not yet ſtudied modern hiſtory, it is neceſſary that I inform you who Charles of Auſtria was, whom Cortez called Emperor of the Eaſt. You recol-

lect

lect that at the time of Columbus, Ferdinand the Catholic reigned in Spain. This Ferdinand had no ſon, but a daughter named Jane, married to Philip, an Auſtrian prince. She had a ſon called Charles, the ſame who is alluded to by Cortez; for on the death of Ferdinand, King of Spain, Charles his grandſon being the next heir to the throne, was crowned, and thus united Spain to the ſovereignty of the Netherlands, which he had poſſeſſed ſince the death of his father. He was afterwards even created Emperor of Germany, and thus became one of the moſt powerful princes that had ever reigned in Europe. He was commonly called Charles the Fifth, becauſe he was the fifth of that name that had poſſeſſed the Empire of Germany. As you will now underſtand of whom Cortez is ſpeaking, I may continue my narrative. The reſolute declaration of the Spaniſh General threw the Mexican grandees into viſible embarraſſment, as they were ſenſible that the requeſt which Cortez made of an interview with the Emperor Montezuma would be extremely diſagreeable to the latter.

John. Why ſo?

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The Father. From the firſt appearance of the Europeans on the coaſts of *Mexico*, Montezuma had experienced the utmoſt inquietude, chiefly on account of an ancient tradition, which prevailed in that country, intimating that toward the eaſt lived a formidable people, who ſooner or later would come and overthrow the Empire of Mexico, and render themſelves maſters of it. It is not eaſy to diſcover from whence ſuch a report could ariſe; but certain it is, that this ancient prophecy had overwhelmed the ſuperſtitious Mexicans and Montezuma himſelf with the moſt ſerious apprehenſions. On this account the demand of Cortez to be conducted to the capital of the Emperor, greatly embarraſſed the envoys. However, before they replied to this diſagreeable requeſt, they endeavoured to obtain the good-will of the General by conſiderable preſents. Cortez expreſſed his ſatisfaction, and they then took courage to declare to him that it was impoſſible they could acquieſce in his demand. But what was their aſtoniſhment when Cortez, aſſuming an auſtere countenance, replied with an air of authority, that he was abſolutely obliged

obliged to perſiſt in it, ſince he could not poſſibly return to the great and powerful Monarch whoſe ambaſſador he was, without having executed the orders with which he was charged. This was more than they expected; and they had no other alternative than to entreat Cortez to wait till they had informed the Emperor Montezuma of his intentions, and were acquainted of his pleaſure upon this ſubject. This was agreed to.

Mathias. And did the Mexicans really give Montezuma the name of Emperor?

The Father. No, certainly, Mathias; for in that caſe they muſt have ſpoken the ſame language as their viſitors, Engliſh. They called him in the Mexican language, their Sovereign Lord, their Maſter, and their abſolute King; but the Spaniards, as he was ſo great and powerful a prince, gave him the title of Emperor, to which they had been for ſome time accuſtomed, as Charles the Fifth, their King, was, as before obſerved, alſo Emperor of Germany. During this converſation, artiſts in the ſuite of the Mexican Lords were buſy in deſigning on pieces of white cotton every thing remarkable that they

they had an opportunity of obſerving among the Europeans. Cortez underſtanding that their deſigns were to be ſent to the Emperor, reſolved to exhibit objects ſtill more intereſting and capable of making a more powerful impreſſion on the heart of Montezuma. With this view he cauſed his whole military corps to place themſelves in battle array, and preſented to the aſtoniſhed Americans the tremendous and magnificent repreſentation of a battle in the European manner. The Indian ſpectators were ſeized with ſuch terror, that ſome fled, others in the greateſt agitation threw themſelves on the ground, and it was with the utmoſt difficulty others could be perſuaded that what they heard and ſaw was merely a ſport exhibited to entertain them.

Now it was that the artiſts had need of their utmoſt ſkill to repreſent all the horror and deſtruction of the European tactics, of which they were living witneſſes. They delineated with a trembling hand; and the relation, with ſome European trifles, was conveyed by ſwift couriers to Mexico, the capital city, to be tranſmitted to the Emperor; for throughout the country, from the moſt diſtant province

vince to the capital, were ſtationed at certain regulated diſtances well exerciſed meſſengers, by whoſe means the Emperor might, in a very ſhort time, be informed of all that was paſſing in the different parts of his extenſive domains.

Peter. How far from Mexico was the place where the Spaniards then where?

The Father. Above an hundred and eighteen Engliſh miles. How many German miles does that make?

Peter. Oh, that is not difficult to compute. Four times four in eighteen, and two remain—five times four in twenty—forty-five German miles.

Theophilus. Then four Engliſh miles anſwer to one German?

Peter. You are right, child; but remember, that in this calculation the German as well as the Engliſh mile is taken in its moſt limited extent. Otherwiſe, we commonly reckon five.

Theophilus, ironically. Upon my word, Sir, you ſpeak very learnedly.

John. But does the gentleman know what makes a French mile?

Peter. That is to ſay, a league.

John.

John. Yes.

Peter, reflecting. A league—We were not talking of that.

John. Defeated! defeated!——Come, Mr. Pedant, confeſs yourſelf conquered, and learn that a league and a half make a German mile.

Peter. True, true, as I ſaid, or rather as I did not ſay, a league is ſomething more than half a German mile.

Ferdinand. What everlaſting babblers! For goodneſs ſake, peace; and do not interrupt the hiſtory.

The Father. The couriers, as I have told you, departed: in a few days they returned with the Emperor's anſwer, which was, as Cortez expected, a denial to his requeſt; but to ſoften the diſagreeable impreſſion this refuſal might make, Montezuma accompanied it with preſents truly worthy of a King. Pilpator and Teutile were charged with this diſagreeable commiſſion; but they wiſely began the negotiation by the delivery of the preſents, with the view probably of preparing the mind of Cortez to receive the refuſal in

good part. The preſents, borne with great ſolemnity by a hundred Indians, were depoſited upon mats at the feet of Cortez, and immediately riveted the attention of the avaricious Spaniards, who were inexpreſſibly aſtoniſhed at a ſpecimen of riches ſo far ſurpaſſing all their moſt extravagant hopes had repreſented of the treaſures of the country. On one ſide were calicoes equalling ſilks for the fineneſs of their texture; on the other repreſentations of animals, trees, and other natural objects, wrought ſo ſkilfully in feathers of various colours, that they might eaſily have been miſtaken for paintings. There were alſo bracelets, necklaces, and other trinkets, wrought in ſolid gold with the utmoſt ſkill and elegance. But as the ſun obſcures the brightneſs of every other object, all theſe precious articles were eclipſed by two large orbs, one of maſſive gold repreſenting the Sun, and the other of ſilver pourtraying the Moon; and as if they were reſolved to omit nothing that might inflame the cupidity of the Spaniards, among other things were found ſeveral boxes filled with precious

precious ſtones, pearls, and gold duſt like that found in the rivulets of the country, or in the mines.

Cortez accepted theſe magnificent gifts in a manner that teſtified great reſpect for the Emperor; after which, the envoys acquitted themſelves of the diſagreeable part of their commiſſion. They declared in the name of their maſter, that they could not grant an entry into the capital to foreigners, nor permit them a longer ſojourn in the Mexican Empire; they therefore prayed them to haſten their departure.

How juſt and reaſonable ſoever this requeſt, Cortez did not aſſume an air of leſs diſpleaſure, and affirmed, ſtill more imperiouſly than before, that his own honour and that of his King abſolutely forbade him to accept this refuſal, or to return until he had the interview he demanded with the Emperor.

Nothing could exceed the ſurpriſe of the Mexicans, accuſtomed to the moſt abject ſubmiſſion towards their princes, to hear with what audacity this extraordinary man inſiſted on what had been abſolutely refuſed by their

Sovereign. Such a preſumption was in their eyes an abomination ſo unheard of, that it was ſome time before they recovered from their aſtoniſhment. At length recollecting themſelves they entreated the preſumptuous European, who appeared to them more and more formidable, to grant them a delay of ſome days, that they might convey advice to the capital of his unexpected perſeverance in his demand. Cortez conſented to this new delay, but on condition only that he ſhould wait no longer than the ſtipulated time for an anſwer.

Whatever reſolution and courage Cortez might diſplay in the whole of this negotiation, he could not in reality be free from uneaſineſs. Every thing convinced him that he had to do with a very powerful and well governed ſtate; and it appeared to be the utmoſt temerity to attempt the overthrow of ſo mighty an empire with a handful of Spaniſh adventurers. He did not however perſevere the leſs ſteadily in his plan, reſolved to hazard this daring enterpriſe, whatever it might coſt him. To this he was impelled by two reaſons. The firſt was religious zeal, which induced

induced him to believe he ſhould further the views of Heaven in ſubduing an idolatrous nation, and forcing them to become Chriſtians. The ſecond aroſe from his own critical ſituation; for, after what had paſſed between Valaſquez and him on his departure from Cuba, he could have no hopes of remaining unpuniſhed on his return. His life therefore being in danger, he preferred riſking it in an enterpriſe of this nature, to expoſing himſelf to the danger of loſing it on his return to Cuba by the hand of the executioner. Unfortunately, in his army were ſome who experienced reflections equally uneaſy upon the ſubject of the approaching expedition; and theſe were the very people who in their hearts eſpouſed the cauſe of Valaſquez. They therefore exerted their utmoſt efforts to inſpire the whole army with their own doubts and fears, with the view, if it were poſſible, of exciting a general inſurrection, and forcing their commander to return to Cuba: but in this they failed, the greater part being too ſtrongly occupied with the idea of the immenſe treaſures which they hoped to poſſeſs, for any thing to divert

them from their purpoſe; beſides which, they thought there was reaſon to expect an anſwer from *Mexico* conformable to their deſires.

The ambaſſadors at length returned, but with an anſwer by no means favourable to the wiſhes of the Spaniards; for, whatever might be the terror with which the obſtinacy of Cortez had impreſſed Montezuma and his Council, they took the manly reſolution of perſiſting in their refuſal and keeping the importunate Europeans at a diſtance. Teutile was the bearer of this unwelcome meſſage, which was again accompanied with the moſt conſiderable preſents.

In this interview Cortez thought it adviſeable to wave ſomething of his former haughtineſs; he replied therefore, with an air of great compoſure, that the Chriſtians held it as a duty to inſtruct their fellow-creatures in a religion that would teach them the way to happineſs; that his Sovereign had ſent him to draw the Emperor of Mexico and his ſubjects from an error in which he could not without compaſſion behold them; that to effect this, an interview with the Emperor

was

was neceſſary, and that in conſequence he muſt ſtill continue to urge his demand till it ſhould be granted. Teutile, burning with rage and impatience, having with difficulty attended to the end of this palliative addreſs, roſe with indignation, and replied, that ſince he ſaw amicable expoſtulations had no effect, they muſt have recourſe to more efficacious means to enforce the orders of his maſter. With theſe words he haſtily withdrew his ſuite; the Mexicans who were in the camp of the Spaniards immediately followed, and in a ſhort time the adjacent country was entirely forſaken by its inhabitants.

This was more than Cortez expected; he was ſtruck with aſtoniſhment, but his companions ſtill more ſo. With heavy hearts they foreſaw the fatal conſequences to which this incident might lead; and the leaſt evil they expected was a total want of proviſions, which the hoſpitable inhabitants, till now, had abundantly provided for them. The male-contents of the army profited by the general diſcouragement that prevailed, and endeavoured to force the General to regain the roads of *Cuba*. They now ventured to ex-

claim loudly againſt him, accuſed him of weak temerity, and excited their comrades no longer to ſuffer him to conduct them in an enterpriſe that muſt end in their deſtruction.

Cortez, who to an aſtoniſhing courage united a circumſpect prudence, which often degenerated into cunning, by means of his confidents ſounded the general ſentiments of the army; and hearing with pleaſure that the clamours of the ſeditious, the ſecret partiſans of Valaſquez, made but a ſlight impreſſion on the greater part of the ſoldiers, he aſſembled the principal authors of the revolt, among whom was one called Ordaz, and, addreſſing them with an air of compoſure and affability, requeſted their ſentiments upon the meaſures he ſhould purſue. Far from diſguiſing them, they inſiſted unanimouſly that there was nothing left but to embark as ſoon as poſſible for *Cuba*.

Cortez heard them with the utmoſt calmneſs, and then replied, that for his own part he could not perceive the dangers with which they alarmed themſelves, but that his deſign was by no means to force them to follow him againſt their inclinations; what they wiſhed therefore

therefore ſhould be done. He then immediately cauſed it to be publiſhed throughout the camp, that every one ſhould prepare himſelf to re-embark and ſail for *Cuba*. Cortez had clearly foreſeen the conſequences of this proclamation. The Spaniards, whoſe ideas from their firſt deſcent on this coaſt had been fixed invariably on the treaſures they had in view, were thunderſtruck upon hearing that they muſt at once relinquiſh the flattering hope of poſſeſſing them; and that, without having reaped the leaſt reward for the fatigues they had till now endured, they muſt return to their homes poorer than they had left them. They could not endure this reflection, great as had before been their diſcouragement, and a murmur of diſcontent on the capriciouſneſs of their commander ſoon pervaded the whole camp. Cortez, tranſported with the ſucceſs of his ſtratagem, heard their reproaches with pleaſure, as he foreſaw they would be the means of accompliſhing his deſign. He even took meaſures to increaſe the diſcontent of the ſoldiers through his confidents, who complained ſtill more loudly that from mere cowardice he

wiſhed to ſtop them in the high road to honour and riches. The reſult of this manœuvre was a tumult among the ſoldiers, all demanding with ungovernable fury that their general ſhould appear before them. This was what Cortez deſired; and he immediately preſented himſelf, feigning the utmoſt aſtoniſhment. All unanimouſly reproached him with having deſpaired of the ſucceſs of an enterpriſe which would viſibly extend the true religion, and procure their country the greateſt honour and advantages. To this they added, that as for themſelves they were firmly reſolved to proceed to the end of the glorious career in which they had embarked, and that they ſhould chooſe another commander, if cowardice induced him to forſake them.

How grating ſoever were theſe expreſſions in the mouth of ſubaltern officers, they were pleaſing to him to whom they were addreſſed. Cortez, perfectly verſed in the art of diſſembling, ſtill counterfeited the utmoſt aſtoniſhment, and ſeemed with difficulty to recover from it. At length he verbally expreſſed his ſurpriſe, and aſſured them that it had

had never once entered his thoughts to abandon hopes which appeared equally dazzling and well-founded; but that, as it was repreſented to him that the whole army were diſcouraged, and inſiſted upon returning, he had, againſt his inclination, taken the reſolution of complying with their deſires. His ſoldiers, re-animated with this diſcourſe, here interrupted him, and exclaimed with one voice, that he had been deceived; that a ſmall number of poltroons had falſely attached their cowardice to the whole army, "but far be it from us," ſaid they "to acknowledge as ours the ſentiments of theſe puſillanimous wretches;" that, on the contrary, they were ready to expoſe their lives and to ſhed the laſt drop of their blood in the glorious enterpriſe upon which they had ſet out; that he might lead them whither he would; that they were firmly reſolved to ſhare with him every hardſhip and fatigue, and to follow him till death through all perils, however formidable they might be.

Cortez, in a manner that expreſſed joy, confidence and courage, praiſed the conſtancy of his ſoldiers, and promiſed to act conformably to their deſires, ſince they were en-

tirely conſonant to his own; adding, that he would go immediately and make all neceſſary preparations for forming an eſtabliſhment in the place where they then were, that they might afterwards penetrate into the heart of the country. Upon this reſolution an univerſal exclamation of joy expreſſed the ſatisfaction of the ſoldiers.

The laſt act of this comedy remained ſtill to be performed. Cortez was in reality General, but he held his authority ſolely at the pleaſure of thoſe he commanded: this ſame power, therefore, which the ſoldiers arrogated in declaring him a ſecond time their chief, might in other circumſtances deprive him of his command. Such a poſſibility he ſought to prevent, and the ſtratagem he made uſe of was this: he appointed a Court of Juſtice for the colony, compoſed of members whom he knew to be entirely devoted to his intereſt; this was ſcarcely eſtabliſhed, and the new magiſtrates aſſembled, when Cortez appeared before them in the moſt reſpectful manner, his enſign of command in his hand. After having requeſted leave to make a propoſition, he addreſſed them nearly in theſe words:

words: "From this moment, gentlemen, I conſider you as the repreſentative of our ſovereign monarch: your decrees, conſequently, will to me be ever the moſt ſacred laws. You no doubt feel how neceſſary it is that our army ſhould be commanded by a general whoſe authority ſhall not depend on the inconſtant will of the ſoldiery; mine abſolutely depends on this; for, ſince the governor, Valaſquez, revoked the commiſſion with which he entruſted me, my pretenſions to the command are doubtleſs diſputable. I hold myſelf obliged therefore, gentlemen, to remit into your hands a power, which is founded upon ſo dubious a right, and to entreat you in the name of the king, and purſuant to the power with which you are now inveſted, to appoint as commander the man who ſhall appear to you moſt worthy of this important poſt: for myſelf, I am ready as a ſubaltern, with my lance in my hand, to give my companions an example of the obedience due to him you ſhall lawfully elect for their general."

With theſe words, he reſpectfully preſented his enſign of command to the preſident, and, laying his patent on the table, withdrew.

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The judges continued the farce he had begun. They appeared to accept his diſmiſſion, feigned a long deliberation, proceeded at length to a new election, and Cortez was a ſecond time unanimouſly choſen commander. Upon this the troops were aſſembled; and the members of the court announcing to them the choice they had made, it was ratified by general approbation.—But before I ſuffer him to proceed on the moſt perilous enterpriſe that was ever reſolved on, let me hear whether you will give him your vote alſo.—On this you may reflect till to-morrow.

DIALOGUE V.

JOHN. Well, dear father, we have reflected.

The Father. And what is the reſult?

John. That Cortez ſhall remain general.

The Father. But the poor Mexicans?

John. Nothing can be done for them, father, how diſpoſed ſoever we may be to favour them. We have conſidered that there are abſolutely no means left of ſaving them, ſince the Spaniards have diſcovered that they poſſeſs ſuch immenſe treaſures; ſo that, ſhould Cortez not ſubdue them, another would ſoon ſtart up who might treat them with ſtill greater inhumanity.

The Father. Unhappy country! thy fate is then decided; for Cortez, reſolved on thy deſtruction, leads into thy peaceful boſom ſix hundred famiſhed wolves, before whom the innumerable troops of thy naked children will be no more than flocks of defenceleſs ſheep!

The new Court of Juſtice gave to the place where they deſigned to form a colony, before they advanced further into the country, the name of *Villa Rica de la Vera Cruz*, which is in Engliſh *The rich city of the true Croſs.* They denominated this new town *rich*, becauſe it was there they became acquainted with the wealth of the Mexicans by the ſuperb preſents they ſent them, and becauſe they hoped the treaſures of this people would

would ſpeedily centre there. They added the *true croſs*, becauſe the day they diſembarked happened to be Good Friday, the anniverſary of the crucifixion of Jeſus Chriſt. This ſingular denomination of the firſt European colony ſettled at *Mexico*, is a ſtriking monument of the leading paſſions which influenced the Spaniſh adventurers, viz. *avarice* and *religious zeal;* they burnt equally with the deſire of filling their purſes with gold, and heaven with Chriſtians. Thus it is that ſuperſtition commonly unites terreſtrial with celeſtial things, cruelty with apparent humanity, an indulgence of the moſt ſhameful appetites with pretended piety. Oh that the happy time may not be far diſtant, when all that we call ſuperſtition or fanaticiſm ſhall be rooted from the heart!

Nicholas. But, my dear father, I cannot exactly comprehend the nature of ſuperſtition and fanaticiſm.

The Father. Superſtition, my child, conſiſts in believing of God, or of ſpiritual things, ſomewhat that is not founded on any rational principle; the perſuaſion of which is, perhaps, hurtful to ourſelves or to others; for example

example, a belief in ſelf-created phantoms, which have for exiſtence no reaſonable foundation, and which, in many circumſtances, produce only terror and uneaſineſs to thoſe who are impreſſed with it. *Fanaticiſm*, or *religious enthuſiaſm*, on the contrary, is that blind zeal, the object of which is to ſpread ſuch ſuperſtitious notions, and force all mankind to believe them *. But to return——

Nicholas. Permit me, my dear father, before you begin, to aſk whether the city which the Spaniards built is not the ſame ſpoken of in our geography under the name of *Vera Cruz?*

The Father. No, Nicholas, you will ſoon find that Cortez himſelf thought proper to tranſport the colony to another part of the country, which appeared to be ſituated more commodiouſly. Let us conſult the map a little—Here, where you find *Old Villa Rica de la Vera Cruz* written, was the place where

* The limits of the preſent work not permitting the Author to enter into further explanations on this important ſubject, he entreats thoſe parents and intelligent tutors who peruſe this work with their pupils, to ſupply what he has left imperfect.

he had reſolved to fix his colony; but afterwards he removed ſome miles more to the South, where you ſimply read *Vera Cruz*.—But we will ſpeak of this hereafter.

The Spaniards now prepared for their departure, and a lucky chance ſmoothed the way for them. Five Indians, ſent as envoys from a certain Cacique whoſe dominions were not far diſtant, demanded an interview with the Spaniſh General; which being granted, Cortez, by means of his interpreters, gained the following agreeable information: that the Cacique of *Cempoalla*, their maſter, having learnt the great actions the Spaniards had performed at *Tobaſco*, admired their valour, and in conſequence was deſirous of forming an alliance with them.

From ſeveral queſtions which he put to theſe envoys, he at length drew from them intelligence that gave him ſtill farther ſatisfaction; this was no other than that Montezuma, to whom the Cacique of *Cempoalla* was ſubordinate, was as much hated as feared by his vaſſals on account of his pride and cruelty; that they were weary of bearing his yoke, and waited only for an opportunity to throw

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it off. Cortez could ſcarcely conceal the pleaſure with which theſe tidings inſpired him; he knew how eaſy it was to overturn the moſt powerful empire when once diſcontents ariſe between the ſovereign and the ſubjects, and he no longer doubted the ſucceſs of an enterpriſe which he before conſidered as extremely hazardous.

The envoys were overwhelmed with civility, both on their own and on their maſter's account, and were ſent back with the aſſurance that Cortez would ſoon pay him a viſit.

To fulfil this promiſe, and at the ſame time to have an opportunity of examining a certain diſtrict which had been repreſented to him as more commodious for a ſettlement, he began his march, accompanied by his whole army, having ordered the fleet to ſail along the coaſt till it reached the diſtrict ſpoken of. At the cloſe of the firſt day they arrived at an Indian village, entirely forſaken by its inhabitants; all the houſes and temples were empty, except that in the latter were ſome idols, the bodies of ſeveral men that had been ſacrificed, and ſome books, the firſt that they had found in America.

Mathias.

Mathias. What, real books, father?

The Father. Doubtleſs not ſuch as ours; but ſomething that ſupplied the purpoſe of books. They were made of parchment, or ſkin prepared with gum, and folded in the form of leaves; different ſorts of figures and ſignificant ſtrokes ſupplied the place of letters, and it was ſuppoſed that their contents related to the abominable worſhip of the Mexican idols.

The next day Cortez continued his march, but to his ſurpriſe found every place abandoned by its inhabitants, not one appearing although he was on the territories of the Cacique of *Cempoalla.* This appeared ſuſpicious; but toward the evening twelve Indians arrived, laden with proviſions, ſent by the Cacique, who requeſted the Spaniſh General to advance to his reſidence, which was not, the meſſengers ſaid, more than a ſingle ſun's diſtance (meaning a day's march); and that there every thing would be ready for the reception both of him and his men. They were aſked why the Cacique himſelf did not come to meet the General; to which they replied, that he was prevented by a certain infirmity.

firmity. Six of theſe Indians Cortez ſent back with thanks to the Cacique, and kept the reſt as guides. The next day they came in ſight of the city which was the reſidence of the Cacique. It was ſituated in a pleaſant, fertile diſtrict, and exhibited a moſt beautiful appearance. Some of the ſoldiers who were in the foremoſt ranks ran back to announce with joyful exclamations that the walls of the city were all of ſilver!

The Children exclaim, That muſt indeed have been beautiful!

The Father. They were not in reality of ſilver; they were only plaiſtered with a lime, ſo extremely white and ſhining, that the ſun gave it a brilliancy that was eaſily miſtaken by people whoſe thoughts were day and night wholly bent on gold and ſilver. Upon entering the city, they found the ſtreets and ſquares filled with a prodigious concourſe of people, whom curioſity had drawn from all parts; but they were unarmed, and were far leſs tumultuous than might have been expected from their numbers. They now approached the abode of the Cacique, and his Indian Highneſs at length appeared; when it was

was immediately underſtood in what the infirmity, which prevented his advancing to meet his gueſts, conſiſted; for his bulk was ſo enormous, that it was with the utmoſt difficulty, even with the aſſiſtance of ſome of his officers who dragged him forward, that he removed from the place where he was. This unwieldy ſize, together with his incapacity of moving or aſſiſting himſelf in the moſt trifling inſtance, produced ſuch an effect upon the Spaniſh ſoldiers, that it was with difficulty Cortez prevented them from burſting into a loud laugh, or indeed that he reſtrained himſelf within the bounds of gravity. As to his appearance in other reſpects, he was magnificently attired in a cotton cloak entirely covered with precious ſtones, and his noſe and ears were pierced and ornamented with jewels. His reception of Cortez by no means agreed with his whimſical figure; his diſcourſe was on the contrary extremely polite and intelligent; and he concluded with requeſting his gueſts to come to his dwelling, that they might converſe more at eaſe and without interruption on their common intereſts. The remaining part of the day was paſſed in repoſe

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from their fatigues, and in regaling upon the various fruits of the country that were furniſhed in abundance.

Cortez, in this interview with the Cacique, gave him to underſtand that he had been ſent by the great Emperor of the Eaſt to deſtroy oppreſſion, and put an end to tyranny in that part of the world. This explanation encouraged the Cacique to break forth into bitter complaints againſt the pride and injuſtice of Montezuma, whom he denominated a haughty and cruel tyrant, whoſe yoke had long been inſupportable not only to him, but to all his other vaſſals. During this diſcourſe his ſenſations appeared ſo lively that he ſhed tears.

Cortez endeavoured to comfort him, and gave him aſſurances of his protection; adding, that the power of the tyrant was the leaſt of his uneaſineſs, ſince he knew it could not ſurpaſs his own, which had the ſupport of Heaven itſelf.

The next day Cortez with his whole army began his march to *Quiabiſlan*, the country in which he had reſolved to fix his eſtabliſhment. Having croſſed the moſt fertile plains and beautiful foreſts, after a ſhort day's march they

they came in ſight of the city of *Quiabiſlan*, ſituated on an eminence and ſurrounded with rocks. The inhabitants had fled; but on arriving at the great ſquare, about fifteen Indians advanced from a temple to ſalute the Spaniards, and aſſure them that their chiefs and all the inhabitants would return without delay, upon condition that he would promiſe to do them no injury. Cortez having given them the moſt ſacred aſſurances, in a few minutes the Cacique returned, followed by all the inhabitants, who had concealed themſelves from terror. Cortez perceived with pleaſure that he was accompanied by the Cacique of *Cempoalla*, who as well as himſelf was borne on a litter.

Scarcely had the interview commenced when both broke into the moſt bitter invectives againſt the tyranny of *Montezuma*; and Cortez, who liſtened to theſe reiterated complaints with new pleaſure, conſoled them with aſſurances of his powerful protection.

In the midſt of the conference ſeveral Indians entered, apparently in confuſion, and whiſpered ſomething in the ear of the two Caciques, which threw them into ſuch conſternation,

ſternation, that they retired in viſible alarm. Cortez followed to learn the cauſe, and ſoon found that it proceeded from the arrival of ſix of Montezuma's officers, ſuperbly clad, and attended by a conſiderable train of ſlaves bearing paraſols of feathers over their heads.

In paſſing Cortez and his officers, the chiefs from Montezuma glanced on them a look of ſuch contempt, that it was with difficulty the ſoldiers were reſtrained from falling upon them.

Marian, who had been ſent to obtain information, returned ſoon after with tidings that the Mexican officers had ſummoned the two Caciques to appear before them, and had ſeverely reproached them with having carried their perfidy ſo far as even to receive ſtrangers, the declared enemies of their Monarch: that as a puniſhment for this treaſonable correſpondence, they were commanded, beſides their ordinary tribute, to deliver twenty Indians more for a ſacrifice to the offended divinities.

Cortez was incenſed beyond meaſure at this information; but prudence urged him to reſtrain his reſentment. He contented himſelf therefore with ſending for the Caciques,

and exhorting them not to execute the ſanguinary commands of the tyrant, but on the contrary to arreſt the bearers of ſo bloody a mandate, telling them that he would take the whole blame of the proceeding on himſelf. The Caciques, accuſtomed to an implicit obedience to the orders of their Sovereign, heſitated; but Cortez, without giving them time for reflection, repeated his exhortation, or rather his commands, in ſo energetic a manner, that they had no longer courage to object; and the officers were accordingly arreſted without the Spaniards appearing to have any hand in the affair. The Caciques once inflamed were for proceeding ſtill further, and ſacrificing the officers they had arreſted in the place of thoſe Montezuma had demanded; but Cortez oppoſed this barbarity with the greateſt horror, and ordered the officers to be guarded by his own men.

He was deſirous, if poſſible, to avoid coming to open hoſtilities with the powerful Montezuma, and with this view reſolved to have recourſe to a ſtratagem which ſhould induce him to believe, that ſo far from being concerned in what had happened to his people,

ple, he was in reality an interceſſor for them. Accordingly, during the night, he cauſed two of the priſoners to be brought before him, gave them their liberty, and ordered them to tell their maſter that he would endeavour to procure the releaſe of their companions; after which he let them go. With reſpect to the Indians, his allies, the next day he made them believe that their priſoners had eſcaped from the guards during the night.

The Mother. How mean and deſpicable was this!

The Father. It was, indeed. It is probable Cortez would not have acted thus artfully, had he not been blinded by the groſs error, that it is permitted to employ every means, even the moſt unjuſt, for the propagation of the Chriſtian religion. He, in the mean while, found ſtill other Caciques of the neighbouring mountains animated with equal hatred againſt their Emperor, and with the ſame deſire of throwing off the yoke of his tyrannic power.

Theſe chiefs of different Indian tribes, all bearing the general name of Totonaques, entered into a formal alliance with Cortez, re-

nouncing the authority of Montezuma, and paying homage to the King of Spain as their only Sovereign.

They now turned their attention to the founding of a Spaniſh colony on a ſpot between *Quiabiſlan* and the ſea; which on account of the fertility of its ſoil, its towering foreſts, and vicinity to the ſea, appeared eligible for an eſtabliſhment. It was named *Villa Rica de la Vera Cruz*; but now it is commonly by abbreviation called *La Vera Cruz*.

Once more, before we proceed, take a view of it on the Map, to impreſs the ſituation on your memories. The Spaniards were univerſally obliged to aſſiſt in the work, and to labour at the conſtruction of the walls and buildings of the new town. No one was exempt; Cortez himſelf was at the head of the workmen, and animated all by his example. By theſe means the works advanced with incredible rapidity; ſo that in a ſhort time the place was encloſed and ſufficiently ſtrong to reſiſt all the warlike machines of the Indians.

In the interval the two liberated Indians had arrived at the capital, and repreſented to Montezuma

Montezuma in glowing colours the good offices which (as they believed) Cortez had done them. This information ſomewhat appeaſed the rage of the Monarch, who, in the firſt heat of his reſentment, had given orders for a powerful army inſtantly to march and exterminate by fire and ſword both the ſtrangers, and the Indians their adherents. Fear now again ſwayed the balance in his mind, and he reſolved once more to try by gentle means quietly to rid himſelf of theſe troubleſome and formidable intruders. A new embaſſy was diſpatched with preſents of immenſe value, and the care of them given to two princes, relations of the Emperor. They arrived at the camp juſt as the fortifications of the new town were completed; and, having remitted the preſents they brought, thanked the General for the aſſiſtance he had given the Mexican officers, and concluded by requeſting that he would depart from the dominions of their Emperor.

Cortez treated the ambaſſadors with the higheſt reſpect, and, before he gave any anſwer, cauſed the four priſoners to be brought and ſet at liberty. Then, by his interpreter

Marian, he replied, " that he was ſorry the Caciques, his allies, had diſpleaſed the Emperor by the impriſonment of his officers; but that he muſt of neceſſity confeſs that they had drawn the diſgrace upon themſelves by an inhuman demand, which he judged muſt have been made without the knowledge of the Emperor; that it was his duty to declare to them, that the Chriſtian religion held this barbarous cuſtom of ſacrificing human creatures in ſo great an abomination, that he felt it incumbent on him to uſe his endeavours to aboliſh it.—With reſpect to the Emperor, he had repaired the affront that had been given him by reſtoring the priſoners; and that, as it was his duty to embrace the intereſts of his allies, he flattered himſelf that at his requeſt he would pardon the Caciques of *Cempoálla* and *Quiabiſlan*, as he could do no leſs than take theſe vaſſals of the Emperor under his protection, they having to the utmoſt of their power endeavoured, by an amicable and hoſpitable reception, to obliterate the groſs affronts he had experienced from Teutile.—To conclude, for what related to his departure, he had before had the honour of

of informing the Emperor, that a commiſſion of the laſt importance impoſed on him the obligation of not returning to his country till he had an interview with him, and that no dangers could deter the Spaniſh warriors from executing the commands of their Sovereign."

The Indian ambaſſadors were ſtruck with aſtoniſhment at the air of indifference and majeſty with which Cortez delivered this addreſs. They returned full of admiration at his courageous reſolution, and inſpired with ſecret contempt for their own Sovereign, to whom they delivered an exact account of all they had heard and ſeen.

The new Spaniſh city was now in a ſtate of defence, and Cortez prepared to march to the capital as he had purpoſed. Fortune ſeemed decidedly to declare in his favour; but his inconſiderate zeal for religion nearly deſtroyed all. News was brought, that in a temple of the Caciques, in alliance with him, preparations were making for a human ſacrifice. Incenſed at the barbarous ſuperſtition committed under his eye, he immediately repaired to the temple followed by ſome of his

men armed, and threatened to deſtroy all with fire and ſword if they did not that inſtant ſet the unfortunate victims at liberty.

Charlotte. In this, however, Papa, he did right.

The Father. Thus far he certainly did. But his zeal was not yet ſatisfied: he inſiſted likewiſe that the prieſts ſhould deſtroy their idols, and for ever renounce their impious religion, although they were yet unacquainted with a better. In this, I think, you will agree with me that he acted injudiciouſly.

Charlotte. Certainly.

The Father. The prieſts fell at his feet with cries and groans; and the Cacique, trembling with apprehenſion, in vain interfered. As they refuſed to deſtroy theſe horrible idols, he ordered his ſoldiers to do it by force. The prieſts now called to arms, and in a few moments Cortez and his little band were ſurrounded by ſuch a prodigious multitude of Indians, that it was ſufficient to damp the moſt reſolute; but he, without betraying the leaſt emotion, and with an air capable of inſpiring terror, proclaimed aloud to the aſſembled multitude, that the firſt arrow they ſhould

preſume

preſume to draw ſhould coſt the Cacique his life, and involve the whole nation in ruin. Marian interpreted theſe words in the language of the country, and the ſoldiers ran to execute the orders of their General. In an inſtant the largeſt and moſt deformed of the idols was rolled from the top to the bottom of the ſteps; the others with the altars and ſacred vaſes followed: every thing was devoted to deſtruction. The temple was then cleared and waſhed from the ſtains of human blood with which the walls were polluted, and an image of the Virgin ſubſtituted in the place of the idols. The aſtoniſhed and terrified Indians expected to behold fire fall from heaven to revenge this profanation; but not perceiving a ſingle ſpark deſcend, and the preſumptuous deſtroyers of the temple continuing before them ſafe and in triumph, doubts aroſe in their minds; they began to reflect; and the end of their reflection was, a belief that the Spaniards alſo poſſeſſed a degree of divinity, which muſt be ſuperior to that of their idols. This idea operated ſo powerfully, that without further deliberation they arranged themſelves on the ſide of Cortez; and collecting

the remains of the very images which had before appeared ſo ſacred, they threw them with the utmoſt contempt into the flames. The temple was immediately converted into a Chriſtian chapel; and that very day, in preſence of numerous Indians, divine ſervice according to the Roman manner was performed; a ceremony which was beheld with admiration by the Indians, though it was incomprehenſible to them.

Nicholas. You ſaid yeſterday, father, that we could not comprehend why the Almighty permitted the downfall of the Empire of Mexico.

The Father. I did ſo, Nicholas.

Nicholas. But it is now eaſy to diſcover the reaſon.

The Father. How ſo?

Nicholas. Why, father, the religion of the Mexicans being ſo abominable as to require the ſacrifice of men, it is probable that God was pleaſed to aboliſh it, and for that reaſon permitted the whole Empire to be ſubdued by the Spaniards.

The Father. Your argument, dear Nicholas, appears to be reaſonable; but without

doubt Divine Providence had other views, which are at preſent unknown to us. Perhaps ages may elapſe before they are explained; nay, it is perhaps in eternity alone they will be revealed. If the cauſe therefore you have aſſigned, Nicholas, be not ſufficient, let us patiently await this diſtant development, pre-aſſured that the Almighty in this, as in every other inſtance, is actuated by wiſe and merciful motives.

Scarcely had Cortez eſcaped the danger into which his precipitate zeal for religion had driven him, when another ſtorm gathered over his head, and threatened to burſt with equal violence. Among the ſoldiers and mariners were ſome who, weary with the many fatigues they had endured, and alarmed at the proſpect of the perils they muſt neceſſarily meet before they could reach the capital, had entered into a conſpiracy againſt their commander. Their deſign was to ſeize one of the veſſels, ſail for Cuba, and carry tidings of Cortez to the enraged Governor.

Fortunately this plot was diſcovered before it was carried into execution. Cortez

cauſed the bearer to be arreſted, and puniſhed as he deſerved; but he at the ſame time ſaw clearly that the ſedition in his little army was not by this meaſure effectually quelled; he feared it might again break forth, and this was to be prevented. Having revolved various meaſures in his mind, he at length fixed on a plan, certain it is true, but at the ſame time ſo hazardous, that a ſoul leſs daring than his own would have ſhrunk from it with terror. I ſhould wiſh you, my children, to exerciſe your minds by gueſſing at the means he adopted, but that I am convinced you would in vain rack your invention; for, although you have on ſeveral occaſions ſeen Cortez act boldly and courageouſly, it is difficult to conceive that he would, after mature reflection, ſtop at nothing leſs than depriving himſelf and his whole ſuite of all poſſible hope of returning to Europe, and reducing himſelf and his people to the neceſſity of deſtroying the Empire of Mexico, or of paying the forfeit with their lives: Yet this was abſolutely the project which he deviſed. He determined entirely to deſtroy his whole fleet, for the purpoſe of convincing

convincing even the moſt cowardly in his army, that, the means of flight being totally cut off, death or victory alone remained.

But if courage was neceſſary to conceive ſuch a project, equal addreſs was requiſite to render the execution of it approved by the army. Fortunately Cortez poſſeſſed in an equal degree theſe two qualities of an elevated genius; hence what his courage had reſolved, his prudence in the end happily accompliſhed. He began by cauſing the veſſels to be unrigged——

Frederic. What does that mean, father?

The Father. Simply, that he ordered them to be cleared of the cordage and maſts: the cannon, and every thing that could be carried out of them, was brought on ſhore. The carpenters then examined the hull of each veſſel, and declared that they were ſo much damaged, that they looked upon it as impoſſible to repair them. Cortez now appeared, and by his eloquence inflamed the ſoldiers with ſuch a military ardour, that they ran as if urged on by a natural impulſe to deſtroy the veſſels, their only reſource in caſe of a failure in their expedition, dragging on ſhore the

the planks, beams, and every thing that remained.

One veſſel only was kept entire, and for the following purpoſe: Cortez had, 'tis true, been confirmed in his dignity of General by the Court of Juſtice he had eſtabliſhed, but in reality this ſignified little more than that he had conferred on himſelf that dignity. He was deſirous therefore of having his right to the command eſtabliſhed upon a more certain foundation, and with this view reſolved to diſpatch a veſſel directly for Spain, to impreſs that Court with a favourable opinion of the ſteps he had taken; to engage the King and Queen to render him independent of Valaſquez, and declare him Governor of the country he was attempting to conquer. The certain means of ſucceeding he well knew was to ſend the Government of Spain a conſiderable ſpecimen of the treaſures to be expected from the conqueſt of Mexico: but this ſpecimen could not be rendered of importance without appropriating the preſents that had been received from Montezuma; and in this caſe the conſent of the ſoldiers, officers, and ſailors, muſt be obtained, as it was

was neceſſary for each to forego his part. This was exacting a ſevere ſacrifice; but Cortez nevertheleſs attempted it, and ſucceeded: every one reſigned the portion that had been allotted him, ambitious of ſhedding his blood, and even riſquing his life, amid a thouſand fatigues and dangers; a circumſtance which, when we conſider the avarice of theſe rapacious men, is difficult to be paralleled in hiſtory, and at the ſame time proves the great aſcendant Cortez had over the minds of his ſoldiers. He at length prepared to depart with his whole army, which was compoſed of five hundred foot, fifteen horſemen, and ſix field pieces. The remainder conſiſted only of about fifty men, nearly all invalids, and two horſemen, which were left to protect the garriſon of *Vera Cruz*. The Cacique allies offered their forces for auxiliary troops; but Cortez accepted only of four hundred men, with two hundred *Tamenes* (or carriers) to bear the neceſſary burdens, and proviſions for the army; for in that country, where neither horſes nor any other beaſts of burden were known, a certain claſs of men who bore the above mentioned name was employed to tranſport

tranſport the neceſſary articles from one place to another. For the ſecurity of the Spaniards left in the garriſon, Cortez made choice of fifty of the moſt conſiderable inhabitants of the country, who, without being ſenſible of their ſituation, ſerved as hoſtages.

Charlotte. Hoſtages?

The Father. Yes, Charlotte: thoſe are called ſo whom we detain in order to oblige their countrymen to conduct themſelves in the manner we deſire, or to fulfil their engagements. Thus is the grand expedition againſt Mexico begun, and to-morrow we will follow the route of our bold adventurers: at preſent my lungs require a little reſpite.

DIALOGUE VI.

THE Father. The day on which Cortez with his little army departed for *Cempoalla* was the 16th of Auguſt 1519. Nothing of importance happened during the firſt day's

march. The countries through which they paſſed appertained to the allies of the Cempoallians, and conſequently to their own; they were therefore amicably received, and furniſhed with a ſufficient quantity of proviſions. In this manner they arrived on the frontiers of *Tlaſcala*. But let us examine the map to obſerve the ſituation of this country. The territory of *Tlaſcala* was about fifty miles in circumference: the chain of mountains which croſſes it is conſidered as a ridge of the higheſt in the world, and extends the whole length of South America. The Spaniards call theſe mountains the——

Peter. Cordilleras.

John. And the French the *Cordilieres.*

The Father. They are alſo named in French the *Cordilieres des Andes:* hence they are often ſimply called in German The *Andes.* The Engliſh uſe both names.

The inhabitants of theſe mountains are evidently diſtinguiſhed from all the other natives of America by their extraordinary courage and exceſſive love of liberty. They had ſhaken off the yoke of the Mexicans, and had formed themſelves into a republic, which

which had hitherto proved invincible. Every diſtrict in this warlike country had its deputies or repreſentatives, who in the name of their peculiar province or town anſwered for the reſt in *Tlaſcala*, the capital city; and the aſſembly of theſe deputies compoſed the ſuperior council and legiſlative power of the whole nation. The form of their government therefore was Ariſtocratic. Do you comprehend the meaning of this term, Nicholas?

Nicholas. Oh, yes, father. The ſovereign power was lodged in the hands of the principal inhabitants.

The Father. You are right. *Tlaſcala* appears to have been the only inſtance of a perfect Ariſtocracy among a people, who, on account of their unciviliſed manners, muſt ſtill be reckoned ſavages. Pride and the love of liberty, courage and an ardent deſire of vengeance, formed the principal features in the character of this ſmall but formidable nation. In vain had Montezuma endeavoured to ſubdue them; and equally in vain had ambitious projectors among their own people riſen, and attempted to elect themſelves

themſelves into tyrants. The Tlaſcalans reſiſted uſurpation of every kind, and preſerved to themſelves the poſſeſſion of that moſt precious of all human bleſſings—Liberty.

Cortez was naturally deſirous of reckoning ſo eſtimable and warlike a nation among the number of his allies. No ſooner therefore did he arrive on the frontiers of *Tlaſcala*, than he reſolved to ſend to them an embaſſy of peace in the Indian manner, with all the accuſtomed ceremonies.

Mathias. In what did theſe ceremonies conſiſt, father?

The Father. I will deſcribe them. Four of the principal Cempoallians were choſen for the embaſſy, and Marian took upon herſelf the care of compoſing an oration, which they were to learn by rote. They were then dreſſed in long cotton cloaks; on the left arm they bore a large ſhell inſtead of a buckler, and in their right hand held an arrow ornamented with white feathers, the point of which was bent downwards. This ſignified their intention to be pacific; on the contrary, an arrow decorated with red feathers ſignified war. Thus attired they departed,

perfectly

perfectly free from apprehenſion, convinced that no injury would be done them. But one thing was ſtill neceſſary for their ſecurity, and this was, to keep the high road, it being there only that the pacific ornaments of the embaſſy guarantied them from inſult. The Indians confirmed this cuſtom by a denomination, which in our language is equal to the *rights of the people*.

Upon the arrival of theſe four envoys at *Tlaſcala*, they were conducted and entertained in a manner agreeable to the nature of their embaſſy, and the next day were ſummoned before the ſuperior council aſſembled to hear their propoſitions. All the members were ſeated according to their age upon blocks of a certain rare wood. The envoys entered with marks of the moſt profound reſpect, that is to ſay, with their heads covered with their cloaks, and holding up the pacific arrow. The members of the council half roſe to receive them; when the envoys made a particular reverence after the manner of the country to each, then advanced ſlowly to the middle of the hall, proſtrated themſelves, and waited in reſpectful ſilence for permiſ-

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ſion to ſpeak. This being granted, they ſeated themſelves croſs-legged on the ground, and thoſe among them who had learnt the oration by rote delivered it in theſe terms:

"Noble and free States! Powerful and courageous People! Your friends and allies, the Cacique of *Cempoalla* and the Caciques of the mountains, ſalute you, and wiſh you a plentiful harveſt, and the deſtruction of your enemies! They alſo appriſe you that a people of celeſtial origin from the eaſt are lately come among them, arrived by ſea in large palaces, and armed with the thunder and lightning of the gods. They inform us, that they are worſhippers of a God, far more powerful than ours, who will endure neither tyranny nor human victims. Their chief is ſent by a very potent monarch, who, from a principle of religion, is deſirous of putting an end to the abuſes and violence which Montezuma has occaſioned among us. This ſaid chief has already delivered us from the oppreſſion under which we languiſhed: he now finds it neceſſary to croſs your territory in his way to *Mexico*, and is deſirous of knowing what are your complaints againſt the tyrant, that he may at the

ſame

ſame time defend your rights and his own, and number them among the other motives of his journey. His intentions toward you are conſequently amicable, and all he aſks in return is the liberty of a free paſſage through your dominions. Be aſſured therefore that he has your intereſt only in view; that his arms are but the inſtruments of juſtice, and that they who bear them are naturally pacific, and have recourſe to rigour only when firſt attacked or offended."

This harangue being concluded, the ambaſſadors again fell on their knees, and in that poſture made a profound bow; after which reſuming their former poſition, they awaited the reply in ſilence. The members of the council anſwered, that they returned them thanks for the intelligence they had brought; that they ſhould take the matter into conſideration, and then give their anſwer in form; after which the ambaſſadors withdrew, and the deliberation began. The council was divided into two opinions; the one for peace, and the other for war. At the head of the laſt was Xicotencatl, a young chief of an ardent and courageous ſpirit, but too prone

to

to unſheath the ſword of war. His party by degrees gained the aſcendant, and it was reſolved that they ſhould detain the ambaſſadors under various pretexts, with the view of gaining time, and putting themſelves in a ſtate of defence. Eight days paſſed in this manner, and Cortez and his allies began to ſuſpect the cauſe of the delay: they were in conſequence reſolved to advance, in order to learn what was become of their ambaſſadors, and to know the ſentiments of the Tlaſcalans concerning their propoſitions. They had not proceeded far before they met a body of the natives armed, who boldly oppoſed their paſſage. An engagement therefore commenced, which cauſed the Indians much bloodſhed, while the Spaniards, defended by their cotton cuiraſſes, had only a few of their people ſlightly wounded, although the number of their enemies more than ten times exceeded their own. But what could courage alone, without order and good weapons, effect againſt the tactics of the Europeans and the deſtructive power of their fire-arms? After this firſt victory, Cortez penetrated into the country, and the next day had the pleaſure of

of ſeeing two of his envoys arrive, accompanied by ſome Tlaſcalans, who threw the blame of the event that had occurred the preceding evening on one of their allies, a people called *Otomies*, who, unknown to the Tlaſcalans, had commenced hoſtilities, and who, as they deſerved, had been puniſhed by the loſs of their braveſt chiefs. Having made this ſhort excuſe, they returned without any clearer explanation of their ſentiments. But the key to this myſterious conduct was ſoon obtained; for the Spaniards, continuing their march toward *Tlaſcala*, were met the day following by the other two envoys in a moſt deplorable ſtate. They fell at the feet of Cortez in tears, embraced his knees, and complained, with the moſt expreſſive geſtures, that the perfidious Tlaſcalans, regardleſs of the ſacred rights of nations, had loaded them with chains, in order to ſacrifice them to their gods, but that during the night they had found means to eſcape. To this they added, that the Tlaſcalans had deſtined the whole Spaniſh army to be immolated to their gods.

Cortez now knew what he had to rely on,

and

and reſolved courageouſly to face the danger how great ſoever. With this deſign he proceeded on his march, and ſoon found himſelf ſurrounded by an innumerable body of Tlaſcalans with their allies, headed by the warlike Xicotencatl, who commanded in chief. The engagement ſoon commenced, and proved one of the moſt bloody. While it continued, an event in itſelf of ſmall importance was near cauſing the total overthrow of the Spaniſh army.

A cavalier of that nation pierced the thick battalions of the enemy with ſuch ardour, that he was entirely ſeparated from his own people, and every where ſurrounded. He received ſeveral wounds, and his horſe being at length killed threw his rider, who fell dead to the ground. The Indians immediately cut off the horſe's head, ſtuck it on the point of a lance, and carried it in triumph throughout their army, to ſhow every one that the monſter was not, as they thought, invincible.

This incident inſpired the Indians with ſuch courage, that they fought with an intrepedity the Spaniards were unable to reſiſt. The dreadful moment of an entire defeat ſeemed rapidly approaching, when to the great aſto-

niſhment of the Spaniards, who began to give way, the war whoop, or cry of war, and all hoſtilities on a ſudden ceaſed: the horns of the enemy ſounding a retreat were heard, and their numerous army, from incomprehenſible reaſons, left the field in ſilence.

Theophilus. How extraordinary!—What could be the cauſe?

The Father. It was afterward known from ſome priſoners that their principal chiefs had been ſlain, and that their places could not be immediately ſupplied; add to which, they conſidered the horſe's head as a ſufficient mark of their victory. Xicotencatl carried it from the field with his own hand, and afterward ſent it to the Supreme Council.

Cortez choſe an advantageous poſt, in which he fortified himſelf, and, reſolving if poſſible to bring the Tlaſcalans to an amicable treaty, ſent ſome of the priſoners to their General, with the commiſſion of exhorting him to peace, at the ſame time threatening him with the moſt ſevere vengeance ſhould he continue to reſiſt his overtures.

This propoſition threw Xicotencatl into ſuch a fury, that he cauſed thoſe who made it to be treated in the moſt cruel manner, and ſent

ſent them back to the Spaniſh camp, covered with wounds, to announce to their General that the next morning at day-break he ſhould appear with an innumerable army, in order to take him and all his people priſoners, and as an oblation that he ſhould ſacrifice them to his gods.

This news was not very conſolatory; but it was accompanied with a preſent that in ſome meaſure ſoftened its aſperity; for Xicotencatl at the ſame time ſent them three hundred Indian fowls and a quantity of other proviſions, that his enemies might feaſt before he ſacrificed them.

Mathias. What could he mean by this?

The Father. That their fleſh, of which he deſigned to make a great entertainment, might have the better flavour. The Spaniards could only laugh ta this rhodomontade, and regale themſelves with what he had ſent them, that they might renew their ſtrength for the engagement that was to take place the ſucceeding day. Xicotencatl faithfully kept his word: at break of day he appeared with a very formidable army, and the engagement began with uncommon fury on both ſides. Succeſs appeared long doubtful; but at length

the military ſcience of the Europeans prevailed, notwithſtanding the numbers and obſtinate courage of the enemy. The Tlaſcalans retreated, and the Spaniards remained maſters of the field of battle; but this third defeat was not ſufficient entirely to ſubdue the courage of this warlike nation. 'Tis true they were now perſuaded that the Europeans were ſorcerers, who could not be overcome by ordinary means, but they ſtill hoped that the art of their own magicians would be able to counteract the ſpells of their enemies.

Charlotte. Had they then magicians among them, Papa?

The Father. They had prieſts, who deceived the people by making them believe, by different ſorts of illuſions, that they could look into futurity, and perform many things ſurpaſſing human power. Theſe were conſulted, and the opinion they delivered was this: That the Spaniards were the children of the Sun; that while day continued, fortified by his rays, they were invincible; but that during night, when the ſun withdrew his paternal influence, their ſupernatural ſtrength decayed, and they fell into the ſtate of weakneſs common to other men.

The

The ſuperſtitious Tlaſcalans, fully perſuaded of the truth of this aſſurance, haſtened to avail themſelves of ſo important a diſcovery by a nocturnal attack; but Cortez was too prudent and too watchful to be caught in the ſnares of ſuch an enemy. He had ſo prudently diſpoſed his ſentinels and advanced poſts, that he was informed of the threatened danger in time to take the neceſſary meaſures for his defence. When the Tlaſcalans therefore advanced, they found the Spaniards already under arms; and although their attack was extremely obſtinate and fierce, they were nevertheleſs repulſed with great loſs.

When the poor Indians found that even their magic could effect nothing againſt theſe enemies, it became a decided point that the Spaniards were more than men; for how otherwiſe could it be accounted for, that in every engagement where the Tlaſcalans had fallen by thouſands, not one of the ſtrangers had been ſlain? The difficulty was, to determine whether they were beneficent or noxious beings, and this appeared an inſolvable enigma.

In this ſtate of incertitude the firſt ſtep they

took was to ſacrifice to their gods ſome of the magicians who had deceived them. They then ſent a ſolemn embaſſy to demand peace.

The ambaſſadors, who were compoſed of the principal men of the nation, approached the Spaniſh camp in their ceremonial habits, ornamented with white plumes, the ſymbol of peace, and from afar gave the accuſtomed marks of the moſt profound reſpect. They ſtopped ſeveral times, touched the ground with their hand, and then carried it to their lips. This ceremony was repeated till they came within the lines of the Spaniſh camp, which they took great care to fumigate, when they once more teſtified their reſpect in the manner I have deſcribed.

Cortez received them with affected dignity, in order to impoſe on them ſtill more by his majeſtic air, after which he commanded them to ſpeak. They obeyed, and hiſtorians have tranſmitted to us the following ſingular addreſs: "If you are evil deities at enmity with us, we bring you five ſlaves whoſe blood you may drink, and whoſe fleſh you may devour; if, on the contrary, you are beneficent beings,

beings, receive an offering of incenſe and divers coloured plumes; but if you are men, accept meat and bread to nouriſh you." They added, that they were come to implore pardon for the hoſtilities their countrymen had committed, and at the ſame time to aſk for peace. Cortez upon this, with aſſumed haughtineſs and dignity, reproached them ſeverely with having ſo obſtinately rejected his pacific overtures; but added, that he was notwithſtanding willing to forget the paſt, if they were content to remain quiet, and give him ſatisfaction for the injuries he had received. With this reply he left them.

No ſooner had this anſwer reached *Tlaſcala*, than the Council publiſhed a general order to all thoſe inhabiting the environs, to ſupply the camp of theſe extraordinary ſtrangers with proviſions, ſtrictly prohibiting their receiving any thing in payment; an order which was executed with a diſpatch and punctuality that aſtoniſhed the Spaniards.

Two days after this, a grand proceſſion from *Tlaſcala* arrived at the camp. The dreſs of thoſe who compoſed it, demonſtrated that it was a ſecond embaſſy of peace; and Cor-

tez gave orders that it ſhould be admitted without the leaſt mark of diſtruſt.

At the head of this embaſſy was the brave Xicotencatl; his ſuite was compoſed of fifty of the principal men of the nation, magnificently attired, and he himſelf wore a long white garment tucked up in the military faſhion, and ornamented with feathers and precious ſtones. With reſpect to his perſon, it was tall, erect, and muſcular, and his whole deportment announced an elevated ſoul and perſonal courage.

After having ſaluted the General reſpectfully, according to the manner of his country, without having aſked any previous permiſſion he ſeated himſelf, and in a manly voice told him, that he alone had been the cauſe of the hoſtilities that had been committed, from the perſuaſion that the Spaniards were of his enemy Montezuma's party; that for this reaſon he voluntarily delivered himſelf into the hands of his conqueror, in the hope, by theſe means, of obtaining pardon for the ſtate, which was really guiltleſs of what had been done, and of procuring for it the peace which he was ordered to ſolicit in the name of the council,

council, the chiefs, and the people; that the city of *Tlaſcala* was ready to receive him and his whole army, and to treat with them amicably.

Cortez was ſo pleaſed with the generoſity and noble frankneſs of this young warrior, that he could not avoid teſtifying his eſteem for him; though he at the ſame time did not fail to reproach him ſeverely with his criminal reſiſtance. He however concluded with an aſſurance, that conformably to their invitation he would in a few days viſit *Tlaſcala*. In the interim a new embaſſy arrived from Montezuma with freſh preſents, but new expoſtulations touching the deſign which Cortez expreſſed of proceeding to *Mexico*. The grand point of the commiſſion appeared to be the preventing of the Spaniards forming an alliance with the Tlaſcalans. With this view the ambaſſadors drew an alarming picture of the perfidy of that nation; but Cortez, with perfect indifference, replied, that he as little feared ſecret ſtratagems as open hoſtilities. During this time the Tlaſcalans were under apprehenſions leſt, as Cortez had not firſt viſited their city, the ambaſſadors

baſſadors of Montezuma had ſucceeded in inſpiring him with ſuſpicions concerning them. Totally therefore to eraſe every idea of diſtruſt, they reſolved that all the members of the ſupreme council ſhould be ſent to the camp, and offer themſelves as hoſtages. This was accordingly dóne with the greateſt pomp: each member was clothed in a white robe, the emblem of peace, and carried by inferior officers in a kind of litter. The moſt conſiderable of this auguſt body was Xicotencatl, the father of the young chief who bore his name, a venerable old man, who, though become blind with age, ſtill retained his underſtanding in full vigour. He cauſed himſelf to be brought near Cortez, embraced him with a noble frankneſs, and that he might: by his touch, form an idea of his perſon, felt his face, and the differents parts of his body: he then addreſſed him in a ſpeech ſo energetic and beautiful, that it merits being preſerved as a model of manly eloquence. According to the Spaniſh hiſtorians it was conceived in theſe terms:

"Generous chief! whether or not thou art of immortal race, the Supreme Council of *Tlaſcala*,

Tlaſcala, who thus give thee the greateſt poſſible proof of its obedience, is not the leſs at thy diſpoſal. We do not mean to excuſe the error of our nation, but ſimply to take the blame of it upon ourſelves, in the hope that the ſincerity of our repentance will appeaſe thy anger. We alone formed the reſolution of oppoſing thee, and we alone have reſolved in perſon to come and requeſt peace of thee. We are not ignorant that Montezuma has endeavoured to deter thee from forming an alliance with us; but if thou liſteneſt to his councils, thou ſhouldſt alſo remember that he is our enemy, if thou even ceaſe to regard him as a tyrant; yet ſuch he muſt have already appeared, ſince he has endeavoured to make thee commit the moſt flagrant injuſtice. We do not aſk thy aſſiſtance againſt him; our own ſtrength is ſufficient to oppoſe any enemy, thee alone excepted; but it concerns us to behold thee give credit to his promiſes, becauſe we are fully acquainted with his artifices. Although blind, a certain light, even while I am ſpeaking, breaks in upon my underſtanding, and diſcovers to me afar off the misfortunes into which thou art on the brink

brink of falling. Why ſhould Montezuma prevail upon thee to withdraw the peace thou wouldſt otherwiſe grant? Why wilt thou not yield to our requeſt, and honour our city with thy preſence? We are firmly reſolved either to obtain thy friendſhip and confidence, or to reſign our liberty into thy hands. Chooſe which of the two thou wilt prefer; for to us there is no alternative, we muſt unavoidably become thy friends or thy ſlaves."

Who could have reſiſted ſuch an addreſs from the mouth of ſo venerable an elder? Cortez felt its full force; and anſwered, that he complied with his deſires, and that he need only ſend people to him to aſſiſt in conveying his baggage and removing his artillery.

The next morning five hundred Tamenes or carriers appeared in the camp, diſputing the honour of bearing the moſt heavy burdens. Cortez directed the march, and it was conducted with as much order, and in as cloſe ranks, as if he had been going to give battle; a precaution which this prudent chief obſerved in all his marches, and which greatly contributed to the ſucceſs of his enterpriſes.

Their entry into *Tlaſcala* reſembled a triumph;

umph; the ſtreets were thronged with people who rent the air with exclamations of joy, intermingled with the noiſe of drums, fifes, and other inſtruments. Young girls ſtrewed the path of theſe extraordinary gueſts with flowers; the prieſts in their ſacerdotal habits walked before, burning incenſe; all the council and the people advanced to ſalute them, and confidence and pleaſure reigned univerſally throughout the city.

The ſtrangers, whom they called *Teules*, that is to ſay Gods, were conducted to a commodious and extenſive building capable of containing them all, and Cortez had no ſooner taken poſſeſſion of it than he poſted a good guard at all the avenues. This precaution was by no means agreeable to the Tlaſcalans, who conſidered it as a mark of diſtruſt; but when it was explained to them that it was the cuſtom of the European ſoldiers, when in perfect ſecurity, to continue the exerciſe of war in order to preſerve the habit of it, they were ſatisfied, and Xicotencatl expreſſed his intention of eſtabliſhing the ſame cuſtom in his army. Cortez became more and more ſenſible of what great utility the friendſhip of this warlike and generous people

ple would be to him: in conſequence he commanded his men to act amicably and with juſtice toward them, while he himſelf left no means unemployed to confirm their confidence, and the good opinion they entertained of him.

He was ſucceſsful in his aim; but his enthuſiaſtic zeal for religion on a ſudden created a total change in his conduct, and was near cauſing the loſs of all the advantages he had promiſed himſelf from the friendſhip of the Tlaſcalans.

In a diſcourſe with one of the Council upon religion, he endeavoured to make him underſtand that they ought to renounce their falſe worſhip, and adore the one only true God, that of the Chriſtians.

The chief replied, that the Tlaſcalans might, as the Spaniards were, be commanded in battle by one General; but that one God could never be ſufficient for them all; that for their part they muſt have many; one to protect them againſt ſtorms, another to ſecure them from inundations, a third to aſſiſt them in war, and a fourth to ſupply their other wants. In vain Cortez replied, that the God of the Chriſtians took charge of all, and regulated

gulated and governed all; it ſtill appeared impoſſible to the Tlaſcalan, that one ſingle Divinity could preſide over ſo many different objects. Upon this Cortez ſent for the almoner (the eccleſiaſtic who accompanies the ſoldiers in war) to ſatisfy the doubts of the chief, and the other Tlaſcalans who were preſent. The almoner exerted his utmoſt powers of eloquence, and his auditors liſtened attentively, but when he had concluded they earneſtly entreated that he would ſay nothing upon this point beyond the Spaniſh quarter; alleging, that if their Teules, (or Gods) heard any thing on the ſubject, they would certainly revenge themſelves by deſtroying their whole country. Cortez now became furious, and already meditated the deſign of reacting the ſame ſcene as at *Cempoalla*, viz. exterpating by force the idolatrous worſhip; but the almoner, Bartholomew d'Olmed, whoſe name on this occaſion deſerves to be recorded with honour, prevented it by convincing him of the imprudence of ſuch a proceeding. "Religion," ſaid this enlightened man, "ought not to be extended by fire and the ſword, but by mild inſtructions, and the example of a wiſe and peaceable conduct. I therefore by

by no means approve the violence committed at *Cempoalla.*" Who would not be pleaſed with theſe admirable principles of toleration, delivered by an eccleſiaſtic in an age when almoſt every Chriſtian, inflamed with a blind and extravagant zeal for converſion, held it juſt with fire and ſword to perſecute his fellow beings who differed from him in opinion, and to force upon them a belief of which they had no conviction?

Thus, my children has Divine Providence, even in the dark ages of ſuperſtition, from time to time raiſed up good men, who have exerted their efforts to humaniſe the moſt degenerate of their ſpecies, and to animate them with the ſpirit of moderation and charity toward their brethren. Rejoice, my children, that you exiſt at a period when men of this deſcription can no longer be ranked in the claſs of miracles; and when you arrive at the age of maturity, ever do your utmoſt to diffuſe among your fellow citizens the ſame ſpirit of tolerance and humanity.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.